



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 31.13 Thursday, March 27, 2025

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

VBT OKs study of proposed sewer route

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

"We're the luckiest people in the world," Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara said at the March 18 regular meeting of the township board of trustees.

He said Salem Township is asking the township for a resolution supporting the feasibility study of a proposal to run a sewer line through Van Buren Township. Van Buren could piggyback on it to the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA) on the west side of Willow Run Airport in Ypsilanti, he said.

Supervisor McNamara said there are more than 1,000 acres of land in the northwestern part of Van Buren that could be developed if it just had sewers. The township has been considering building pipes to the Rouge Valley Sanitary Sewer District treatment plant, but it has limited capacity.

McNamara described Salem as a 36-square-mile township that doesn't like government. He said they have no cops and pay for public safety coverage. They have one clerk and a deputy treasurer. They make money from the landfill there, but the landfill smells and developers want to build subdivisions across the township border.

Salem is sitting on land with no sewer and no wastewater treatment, said McNamara.

In his memo to the board, municipal services director Ron Akers said Salem has received about \$35 million from the state of Michigan to construct a wastewater treatment plant in its township. Due to environmental and run-off concerns, EGLE is encouraging them to study an alternative option which would involve running a pipe to the YCUA plant. Due to issues related to this sewer pipe in Washtenaw County, they are exploring the feasibility of completing

(continued on page 8)



Photo courtesy Van Buren Public Schools

For the first time in history, the Belleville High School Girls Varsity Basketball team won the Division 1 Michigan High School Athletic Association State Championship on Saturday. The team beat Rockford High School 61-48 at the Breslin Center in East Lansing.

Belleville DDA agrees to buy clock for 4th St. Square

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Belleville Downtown Development Authority voted unanimously at its regular meeting on March 19 to buy a clock for the Fourth Street Square at a cost of \$26,000 to replace the non-functioning clock there.

DDA Director Steve Jones said he hasn't been able to contact a proposed donor to pay for the clock, so the motion to approve buying the clock was amended to say the city wait two weeks before expending the funds.

Director Jones, who is also assistant city manager, said he tried many ways to contact the proposed donor, who he identified at an earlier meeting as Craig Atchinson.

Jones said Atchinson had proposed buying a Shinola clock, but Jones said the Shinola looks like a giant pocket watch and the DDA members preferred a clock similar to the one it is replacing.

The DDA has been discussing replacement of the clock since its October meeting.

Mayor Ken Voigt, who sits on the DDA, said it will take a month or two to get the new clock installed.

DDA member Chris Donley asked Jones to still try to contact the donor. At the February meeting, Jones also reported he had been unable to contact Atchinson.

DDA chairman John Winter said on the previous Saturday, the clock was leaning and almost fell over. Mayor Voigt said he hadn't heard about that and the clock should be taken down if it is a danger.

In other business at the one-hour-41-minute regular meeting on March 19, the DDA:

- Heard a 25-minute presentation by Kathleen Springer of KSpringer Media on what her business can do for the DDA by working together. DDA member Kelly McWilliams said Springer had changed her

attitude about working together since 15 years ago or 5 years ago she couldn't post announcements that were requested. "You weren't part of our group," Springer replied. "We belong to the CBC. Why do we need to pay separately?" McWilliams asked. A woman called out from the audience that you have to pay Springer if you want to post on her sites. McWilliams asked why Springer was giving a presentation, since this agenda item was set before the DDA discussed it. Springer said she wanted the DDA to give her company their trust and she wanted to show what they can do for the DDA. DDA chairman John Winter directed Jones to bring this proposal back to the next meeting with costs;

- Was advised by Jones that the Phragmites in the Victoria Commons ponds were cut down at the ice and since are being

(continued on page 17)

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US Postage Paid
Belleville, MI
48111
Permit No. 26

*Postal Regulations Require
This Space On The Front Page.*



**The Denton Road bridge
has been closed by
Wayne County for
907 days as of today.**



WILLIS FEED MILL

Your Wildlife Headquarters for 2024!

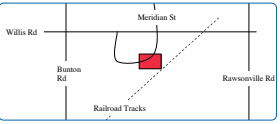
- Dog and Cat Food
- Wild Bird and Squirrel Food
- Certified Organic Products
- Hay and Straw • Poultry Food
- Horse and Livestock Feed

10200 Railroad Street, Willis, Michigan
 (South end of Meridian St, off Willis Rd, Between Rawsonville and Bunton)
We look forward to seeing you soon. **(734) 461-1111** willisfeed@att.net

Like Us On



HOURS:
 MON-FRI 9AM-6PM • SAT 9AM-5PM
 SUN 10AM-4PM





Affordable Rental Communities for Seniors

BELLEVILLE CO-OP

For over 75 years as a mission-driven non-profit, we exist solely to provide the highest quality, affordable housing communities possible for seniors.

575 Sumpter Rd, Belleville
For more information call:
734-699-8676
M-W-F 9am-Noon



Amenities

- 100% Smoke free campus
- Individual heating & cooling
- Emergency in-unit pull cords
- Subsidized rent
- On-site laundry
- Transportation available

www.csi.coop **(800) 593-3052** **TDD (800) 348-7011**



NEW ITEMS... FURNITURE!

DAVE'S TREASURE TROVE

Private Sale Cash or local checks

Hunting Gear
 Guns, Bows
 Knives
 Fishing Poles
 Fishing Lures
 Lionel Trains

Sports Memorabilia
Tools and Collectibles
 Boating Accessories

(734) 699- 4438
 Wednesday - Saturday
 11 AM to 5 PM

668 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI 48111



White Pine DENTAL HEALTH

Your Smile Comes First!
 Affordable, Kind, and Convenient.

Call Us Today: (734) 252-6002 187 Main Street, Downtown Belleville
www.WhitePineDentalHealth.com



Meet our Dentist: Dr. DeAngelo S. Webster is an award-winning dentist, author, and a University of Michigan graduate.

• Now Booking New Patients •
 Open Evenings and Weekends
 Family Friendly Dentist for Adults and Kids

Come visit us at our new location in downtown Belleville!



Dr Robert Kennedy, O.D.
 240 Main Street
 Belleville, MI 48111
 734.699.1010

Monday 9am-7pm
 Tuesday 9am-6pm
 Wednesday 9am-7pm
 Thursday 9am-6pm
 Friday closed
 Saturday by appointment
 Closed 1-2pm every day

Visit www.perspectiveeyecare.com to schedule online

KP& T AUTO SERVICE NOW OFFERING

RUSTPROOFING

Protect your vehicle from harsh winter snow and road salt.
 Call for an appointment today!



at it's **Best!**
PROTECT THE NEW, PRESERVE THE OLD!
 - CARS, TRUCKS, SUVs & TRAILERS -

590 E. Huron River Drive – Belleville 734-391-7292

SERVING BELLEVILLE & SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN!

BARNETT

Roofing and Siding, Inc.

OVER 50 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Roofing • Siding • Flat Roofs
FREE ESTIMATES!

NOW THRU MAY 30, 2025
RECEIVE OUR CERTAINTEED ROOF 4-STAR EXTENDED WARRANTY FOR FREE! CURRENT & PAST MILITARY MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A \$250 CABELAS GIFT CARD!

Licensed & Insured
CALL (734) 397-8122
 Visit us @ www.barnettroofing.com
41700 MICHIGAN AVE. – CANTON

SECOND FRONT PAGE



Photos courtesy April Warner Photography

The 2025 Bellevillains team, coaches, and mentors proudly display their Finalist trophy, plaque, and medals following the playoff robotics matches in the Belleville district event.

Strong showing by home robotics team results in second-place finish

By Mark Laginess

The Belleville High School Team 6615 “Bellevillains” finished the 2025 FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Belleville District Event at BHS as part of the second-place alliance.

The March 14-15 competition was the team’s first participation in the 2025 season which followed a highly successful 2024 campaign, including a second-place finish in the State of Michigan competition and a trip to the World Championships in Houston, Texas.

In Michigan, with 619 FRC teams registered in the state, a total of 27 separate district competitions are held to give each team a chance to play in two of them.

For each district competition, up to 40 teams will compete, each playing in 12 qualifying matches. In these matches, three teams form an alliance and play against three other teams so that six robots compete at one time. Match alliances are randomized, and an alliance partner in one match may be an alliance opponent in another.

Following qualification rounds, 24 teams play in fixed alliances with the top eight teams serving as alliance captains who choose two other teams to play with them in a double-elimination playoff format.

FIRST seasons are generally themed on a real-world scenario adapted to a playing field which is slightly smaller than a basketball court. This year’s game is titled “Reefscape,” and the game elements are meant to refer to parts of an underwater coral reef. To score points, robots load “coral” (12” long PVC segments) onto a “reef” while cleaning “algae” (16” diameter teal rubber balls) from the reef. Points are scored based on the number of

corals placed and algae removed. Near the end of the match, robots may earn additional points by climbing on a structure suspended below the “barge” which spans the playing field.

While they fared better during qualifying play on their home field in 2024, the BHS team’s record after this year’s qualifying rounds on the BellevilleMain, LLC, field was 7-4-1, good for 17th place out of 40 teams. Their strong and consistent qualifier performance, even in a loss, made them a quick selection for the playoff rounds by Alliance 3 captain Da Bears of Team 247 from Berkley High School. The third team chosen into the alliance was The Battering Rams of Team 6566 from Lamphere High School in Madison Heights.

In the first match of the playoffs, Alliance 3 scored a decisive 181-87 victory over Alliance 6, comprised of Steel Falcons (Team 7220, Livingston Christian School in Brighton), Code Red Robotics (Team 5567, Milan High School), and The Byting Irish (Team 7660, Fr. Gabriel Richard High School in Ann Arbor).

Alliance 3 followed that with a 150-126 win over Alliance 2, represented by The Atoms Family (Team 4405, Plymouth Christian Academy), Wings of Fire (Team 51, International Technology Academy & Pontiac High School), and Tech Tribe (Team 9182, New Boston Huron High School). That set them up for what would arguably be the most exciting match of the day against Alliance 1, made up of alliance captain Lightning Robotics (Team 862, Plymouth/Canton/Salem High School) and their partners The CREW (Team 7769, Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southeast) and Grizzly Robotics (Team 66, Ypsilanti STEMM Middle College).

Despite scoring 214 points, Alliance 3 fell into the losers’ bracket when Alliance 1 bested them by eight points. The 222-214 match was, at the time, listed as one of the highest combined-score matches played in the world this season.

In their only loser’s bracket match, Alliance 3 soundly defeated Alliance 4, made up of Pontiac Firebirds (Team 10349, Pontiac High School), WARHBOTS (Team 6618, Flat Rock High School), and Robo Falcons (Team 8179, Dearborn Divine Child High School) by a score of 177-126. Their joy was short-lived, however, as Alliance 1 reeled off two straight match victories in the best-of-three finals to claim the district banner.

The finalist position was the Bellevillains’ best finish in the six district events held since 2018 on their home turf. Currently ranked 186th out of 619 teams in the state, Team 6615’s prospects for a return to the state championships could solidify with a strong showing at the Renaissance High School district event in Detroit on March 28-29. Following this last weekend

of district competition, the state’s top 160 teams will travel to Saginaw Valley State University to compete for the state championship from April 3-5. The top 80 Michigan teams from this event will receive invitations to attend the world championships in Houston from April 16-19.

The Bellevillains and the Belleville District Event are supported by their many sponsors, including: BellevilleMain, LLC, Autokiniton, GM, Snider Electric, Sunbelt, Van Buren Public Schools, Van Buren Education Foundation, The Jahr Family, Intents Events, Waste Management, Belleville Kiwanis, Sumpter Ace Hardware, SME, Reflections on the Lake, Atchinson Ford, CRG Electric, Barnett Roofing, Moving the Mitten, Interstate Batteries, DTE, Hennessey Engineers, Hungry Howie’s, Kabob Garden, Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Kevin and Lisa Martin, St. Anthony Parish, Inspirations Hair Salon, Garden Fantasy, Burke Sales and Engineering, and Edward Jones McGovern Wealth Management Group.



The Bellevillains’ drive team and their playoff alliance partners await their next playoff match. From left in top hats are Xavier Miah, Carson Conley, and Desmond Reinhart, accompanied by drive team coach Ethan Hardy.

OPINIONS

Editorial

Independent sent many letters against Trump

We are a small, weekly newspaper dedicated to reporting on activities in a single zip code – 48111 – and yet we have been receiving dozens of letters from people who don't live here about things that aren't originating here. They want to use our pages for their complaints.

We refer to the campaign against the agenda of the newly elected President of the United States Donald Trump and the actions he and his appointees have taken since his inauguration.

We know this is a community where most of the residents are Democrats and so this rebellion against a Republican president is to be expected. But, there are Republicans here, too, and lots of independents. We try to be non-political and just report on what's going on locally.

A man brought a letter into our office on Tuesday railing against Trump and signed by a man who lives in Clearbrook, Minn. We keep getting them by email, too. Six or so in a row that are exactly the same signed by people who don't live here.

We don't have room for opinions on federal and state news. That's for the larger newspapers. We want to hear your comments about what's going on here. We're the only local outlet for news and if it happens in this area, this probably is the only place you can read about it. It's important to keep the news as local as possible. The federal and state news is on TV and in daily papers and online. Put your opinions on those things in those venues. We stay local, local.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

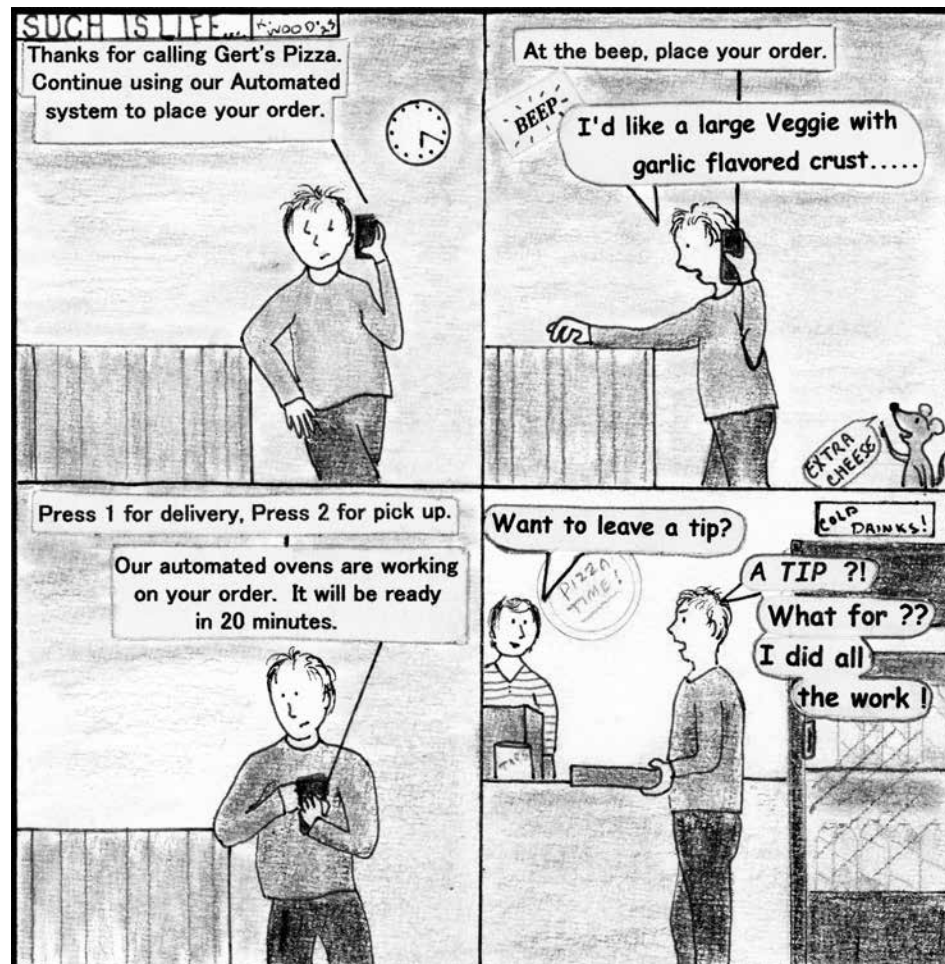
Happy 99th birthday to Millie Baker, who has been a community supporter for a long time. I remember her supporting the Independent when it started more than 30 years ago. After her husband Bob died, she arranged for the flagpole and American flag to be put up at the Belleville Fire Hall. He had been a fire chief, served on the planning commission, and other city projects. Millie helped start the all-school reunions and worked every year to keep them going. Hope your birthday is great.

When we drove into town on Tuesday, we noticed a new lighted speed-limit sign installed on a pole on Savage Road, just west of Martinsville Road. It showed that we were doing the 40 mph speed limit.

The sewer pipe that is being proposed to go south on Denton Road from Michigan Avenue to the airport will go right through the middle of the community of Denton in Van Buren Township. It would be in the road right of way, but it will be quite a disruption for a while. That's if the sewer pipe is approved. It's still considered a pending matter. VBT gave its blessing to a study on the pipe route and verbally supported it coming through the township so VBT can "piggyback" on its use.

A man came in to say the box on our front page each week telling how many weeks the Denton Road Bridge has been closed is negative. He said he would like to see a picture of what the bridge will look like when it's done. He said if they are building it, they must know how it will look when it's done.

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



I told him a picture or drawing has not been shown at a board meeting, but we agree, someone knows what it's going to look like.

We also got a phone call from a reader saying he wanted to see a picture of the new bridge. Someone in our office said she wants to know if it's going to be a covered bridge, as suggested years ago.

I told her that hadn't been mentioned recently.

The local school districts are taking Spring Break this week. We remember Spring Break as being during Easter Week in the past. This year, Easter is on April 20. The schools are taking Good Friday off to mark Easter.

This year both the Belleville and Sumpter candy giveaways for children are the day before Easter. That always bothers me because the Easter Egg hunts in the past were always on Easter Sunday after church.

The celebration of Christ's resurrection is after he is resurrected. The celebrations with the candy for kids is on Saturday, while Christ would still be in the tomb. What's to celebrate?

During my childhood, Friday and Saturday were days of prayer and quiet. This celebration stuff just makes me confused.

The state was having a tornado drill at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, but Van Buren Township sent out a notice it wasn't

participating. Van Buren tests its tornado sirens at 1 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month.

A reader said he was sorry to see that the city of Belleville was moving its city hall over to the old post office location at 330 Charles St., next to the large library/city parking lot.

He said when they have meetings at city hall, people probably will park in the library parking lot because the post office parking lot on the other side of the post office is only about 10 spaces and would probably be used by staff.

He said when he goes to the library now, he always parks at the far end of the parking lot next to the post office because nobody else parks there. Now there will be parkers. He said he doesn't want anyone to park too close and scratch his truck.

"Where can I park now?" he asked.

We thank Mark Laginess for his detailed report for our readers on the robotic competition earlier this month. There are so many rules that we didn't understand and he lays them out and explains them and we appreciate that.

I didn't know the robots were stacking coral on a reef and removing algae.



www.bellevilleareaindependent.com
baindependent@ameritech.net

BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Established Dec. 3, 1994 First Edition Jan. 5, 1995

The Belleville-Area Independent is a free, weekly newspaper published each Thursday in Belleville, MI.

Editor: Rosemary K. Otzman
Home phone (NO ADS, PLEASE!): 697-1294

Advertising Manager:
Janet Millard

Bookkeeper: James Otzman

Production Manager:
James Otzman

Office Manager: Yvette Gorecki

Editorial Cartoonist: Kathryn Wood

Belleville Area Independent™ is a Trademark and is registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Reg. No. 3,751,670
Belleville Area Independent Holding Company, LLC (Michigan Limited Liability Company)

152 Main St., Suite 9,
Belleville, MI 48111
734-699-9020
FAX 734-699-8962

The Independent is owned and operated by a Michigan Limited Liability Company made up of members of this community.

Member: Michigan Press Association

Entire contents of this paper is Copyrighted © 2025 - All rights reserved.

This paper is available free at sites throughout the community. To get the Independent delivered by mail, cost is \$55 per year for postage, Outside of Michigan - \$60 per year, outside of the USA - call. Also available free to download on our website.

Deadline for news & ads (see below) is Noon of every Monday. Deadline for ads smaller than 1/2 page is Noon Monday, and all advertising 1/2 page or larger is Noon Friday, with the exception of certain holiday weeks. Classified ad deadline is Noon of every Tuesday.

Patronize Our Advertisers!
They are the ones who give you this free paper!

Columbia Court Apartments
275 W. Columbia • Belleville
For 1 Bedroom & Studio Apartments Only.
Accepting Applications for Individuals 62 & Older
H.U.D. Guidelines Apply
A Senior Facility of National Church Residences
Affordable Housing • Sec 8-202
Minutes From Shopping, Freeways & Restaurants
 **734-697-8200** 

For Classified Advertising, Display Advertising or News Tips.
One call does it all: 734-699-9020
The Belleville-Area Independent

CHINA KING
45915 S. I-94 Service Dr., Belleville
Next to the Belleville Post Office
(734) 699-1550
See our menu online at:
chinakingbelleville.com
LUNCH • DINNER
Best Buffet Around!
DELIVERY AVAILABLE THRU UBER EATS, GRUBHUB & DOOR DASH!
BEER & WINE AVAILABLE • DRIVE-THRU PICKUP



Wi-Fi HOTSPOT

OPEN HOURS	
MONDAY - THURSDAY	1:00AM - 9:00PM
FRIDAY & SATURDAY	11:00AM - 10:00PM
SUNDAY	11:30AM - 9:00PM

HAVEN GROUP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS
Formerly Known as
Belleville Tax & Accounting Service, Inc.



Lance Siemen,
CPA, CFE, CFF, CAMS



Susheel Saini,
CPA



Denise W. Baker,
MSA, CPA

Gayl Parr,
CPA

Full Service Accounting Firm for Business & Individuals

- Business Accounting & Financial Statements
- Payroll Services
- Business and Personal Tax Returns
- Business Advising and Start-Up Consultation
- Audits, Reviews & Compilations

Visit our website
www.havencpa.com

Call Us Today!
(734) 697-8000

All major credit cards accepted



152 Main Street
(in The Professional Building)
Belleville, MI 48111

Letters

Difference between Educated and Education

To the editor,

So much is being discussed today with schools, school funding, curriculum, etc., etc. As a retired educator at the high school and community college level, with 28 years of experience, and entrepreneur for over 50 years, I feel compelled to throw my 2 cents into the ring.

First, let's get two terms straight as they have been misused by the public as long as I can remember. This is by no means meant to be an all-encompassing definition but only rudimentary at best.

EDUCATED = adjective, one who has received knowledge at schools and colleges; well-versed in the sciences, arts, philosophy, social studies, and various vocations.

Applicable here would be a quote from Thomas Jefferson of Oct. 15, 1785: "What are the objects of an useful American Education? Classical knowledge, modern languages & chiefly French, Spanish, & Italian; Mathematics, Natural philosophy; Natural history; Civil history; Ethics."

Whereas to get an EDUCATION = noun, more specialized in knowledge and skills! We start acquiring these two functional words right after we learn to talk. Remember, maybe yes maybe no, when we were told about "Fireman? Doctor? Nurse? Policeman? Etc." What school of higher learning (if necessary) should one pick to get this EDUCATION?

At high school with prep courses, college-prep or advanced courses or vocational then advanced courses. The myriad is mind-boggling yet we all must travel this path sooner or later.

Who should govern the educational system? Our founding fathers were again wise in their decision with the 10th Amendment ... "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively..."

Let's start with who has the ultimate say in what, and how our children will be taught. It's very basic. Who issues the lower grade or high school diploma? The United States? The State of Residence?

KAREN'S PLACE
A Salon For Everyone
36968 Huron River Drive
New Boston, Michigan
Appointments & Walk-ins Welcome
734-753-9130
OPEN: Tues.- Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-3

ANNOUNCEMENT
Karen's Place has a new Nail Tech.
Call Lexi for an appointment today!

NO! It's each individual school district ... not even the school? It's the district who sets the curriculum that usually coincides with the community needs, interests, life style, etc. It's the district who hires the superintendent. It's the district who hires the teachers. It's the district who is responsible for the education, safety, and transportation of our children. It is YOU who is responsible for all of this because YOU elect school board members! You help decide your child's safety and educational possibilities. You, the voting public, decide the caliber of education by how you vote on school bonds and school taxes (yes, both, because one is used for buildings and tangible and other for non-tangible items.)

You, the voting public, are responsible for not only their future, but the future of this country!

"Federal Government... thank you for all of your assistance in funding but stay out of the educational process!" They give the funds with strings attached! Just to touch on State Department of Education are appointed individuals who set the standards that guide local school boards.

Let me close with Ronald Reagan's quote from the Jan. 5, 1967 inaugural address: "Freedom is a fragile thing and it's never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by way of inheritance, it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to people. And those in world history who have known freedom and then lost it have never known freedom again."

Cornell Anton, Jr.
Belleville

Belleville area needs fresh air blown into it

To the editor,

Spring is in the air and we need to blow some fresh air into Belleville and the surrounding areas! I see some people are watching like I am. I have talked about a destination art museum for the area.

I think we need to make Belleville a destination for people to come and enjoy. Whoever owns the home with the scary ghou on Belleville Road, can you PLEASE take that down until the appropriate time to display it? It's not a good look coming into town. Please push all that stuff back.

The clock at the VBT South fire station is broken. I spoke to someone who works there and I was told that it breaks all the time. It's a pretty sad situation to spend millions on buildings that aren't even respected after being built with tax money.

Donald Keith
Sumpter Township

P.S. Can someone take the alligator down and paint the outside a neutral color?

One Call Does It All...
...At The Independent
734-699-9020

More Letters

Trump's EPA should not ignore reality

To the editor:

The Trump administration's proposal to reconsider the EPA's endangerment finding is reckless, anti-science, and a huge step backward for climate action. This decision isn't just about politics -- it puts our health, environment, and future on the line.

The endangerment finding, established in 2009, is based on clear scientific evidence that greenhouse gases harm public health and the planet. It's been the legal backbone for policies that reduce emissions from cars, power plants, and industry. Without it, we lose a key tool for fighting climate change -- and that's exactly what polluters want.

The reality is, climate change isn't some distant threat. It's here. We're seeing record-breaking heat, wildfires, floods, and hurricanes that devastate communities. Our state is not immune from these catastrophes and the Trump Administration's actions would reverse progress. Gutting this policy ignores science and common sense at a time when we need stronger action, not more rollbacks.

This also sends a terrible message to the rest of the world. While other countries are working toward clean energy solutions, the U.S. risks becoming a climate laggard instead of a leader.

We can't let this happen. We need to push back against this dangerous move and demand real climate solutions. The health of our planet -- and future generations -- depends on it. The EPA should scrap its plan to undo this regulation and maintain the rules that are protecting all of us and the air and water we rely on.

Julie Skelton
Van Buren Township

Editor's note: We received six more letters

that are identical to the one above, signed by people with addresses in Ann Arbor, Westland, Romulus, Pinckney, and Milan. The letters were all sent by civicinput@newmode.io. We prefer a letter that is written by the person sending it to us, which is obviously not the case here. In the future when we get a number of the exact same letter, we won't use any of them.

St. Jude Thaddeus: My prayers were answered

To the editor:

This is the St. Jude Thaddeus Novena.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved, and preserved throughout the world now and forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, hear our prayer. St. Jude Thaddeus, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude Thaddeus, helper of the hopeless, pray for us.

Say this prayer nine times a day for nine

days. On the ninth day your prayers will be answered. Publication must be promised.

Thank you, Jesus and St. Jude Thaddeus, for prayers answered.

Sally, Jenna

Thanks to St. Jude for answering my prayers

To the editor:

Thanks to St. Jude for answering my prayers. They came true. Thank you so much.

St. Jude Novena Prayer

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved, and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, keeper of the hopeless, pray for us.

Thank you,
PM

Patronize Our Advertisers!

They are the ones who give you this free paper!

**One Call Does It All...
...At The Independent
734-699-9020**

IMPORT AND DOMESTIC



Burhop's Collision

BODY AND FENDER REPAIR
COMPLETE GLASS INSTALLATION
(734) 699-3641
FAX: (734) 699-3856

112 Davis St.
Belleville, MI 48111

Towing Available
Open Weekdays 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



The Hair Station
(734) 796-4795

151 Main Street
Belleville MI 48111

INQUIRE ABOUT OUR SPECIALS!
thehairstation151@yahoo.com

**HOURS: MON-FRI BY APPOINTMENT ONLY,
SATURDAY 11AM-3PM OPEN TO PUBLIC**

Friends of MI Animals Rescue
Promote a Healthy and Safe Environment for All

ADOPTIONS BY APPOINTMENT

**51299 Arkona Road
Belleville, MI 48111**

734-461-9458

info@friendsofmichigan.org
www.friendsofmichigan.org

 Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue

PRO PLUMBING

Free Estimates
Service & Repair
Drain Cleaning
Gas Lines & More

Licensed & Insured
Honest & Reliable

Caleb Windiate
734.307.6478
ProPlumbing734@yahoo.com



George E. Long, III
Attorney & Counselor At Law

**Federal & State Criminal
and Civil Defense**

DUI • Wills • Probate Matters
Divorce • Social Security Disability
Notary Public

734-697-4455

321 MAIN STREET, BELLEVILLE, MI 48111 GLONGLAW.COM

WEST BRANCH BUILDERS

LICENSED
INSURED



SERVING OUR
COMMUNITY FOR
OVER 38 YEARS

**21321 KARR RD
BELLEVILLE, MI 48111**

RESIDENTIAL AND
COMMERCIAL

TIM BOWMAN

westbranchbuilders@yahoo.com PHONE 734-476-1098

Effective College Planning
Christie Pagel, MPA
College Planner / Advisor

effectivecollegeplanning.com
effectivecollegeplanning@outlook.com
734-578-4514



**NATIONAL HUMAN
TRAFFICKING HOTLINE**
CONFIDENTIAL | TOLL-FREE | 24/7

1-888-373-7888

Get help. Report a tip.
Find services.
Learn about your options.

www.HumanTraffickingHotline.org

**BONECUTTERS
TREE EXPERTS, LLC**

**STORM DAMAGE &
SPRING DISCOUNTS!**
50% DISCOUNT IF YOU KEEP WOOD/BRUSH!

- Storm Clean Up
- Free Estimates
- Tree Topping & Trimming
- Tree & Shrub Removal
- Stump Removal • Bucket Service

Insured & Senior Discounts

(734) 431-4202

YEAR ROUND
SERVICE BY
PROFESSIONALS

SERVING BELLEVILLE, SUMPTER TOWNSHIP & VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP FOR OVER 41 YEARS

David C. Brown Funeral Home

Live ~ Laugh ~ Love ♥ Remember

David C. Brown, Founder • Shelly A. Brown-Chudzinski, Manager

(734) 697-4500

www.DAVIDCBROWNFH.com

Complete Line of Monuments & Markers.



460 E. HURON RIVER DR., BELLEVILLE, MI 48111

*Patronize Our Advertisers!
They are the ones who give
you this free paper!*



BELLEVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Moving forward 417 Charles
in Christ together! Sunday 10am
bellevillefirstumc.org 734.697.9288

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6020 Denton Road
Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 483-2276
www.faithchurchdenton.org
Sunday Worship at 9:30am. Bible Study &
refreshments after Worship.

BELLEVILLE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Saturday Mornings
Bible Study 10:00 Worship 11:30
89 South Edgemont
bellevillesda.com

Ridge Road Church of Christ

1770 Ridge Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198
Sunday Bible Study 10 AM, Worship Service 11 AM
Sunday Evening Worship 6 PM and
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 PM
www.ridgeroadcoc.org (734) 485-2930

BELLEVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11900 Belleville Road
Service and Sunday School
10:00 a.m.

BETHANY BIBLE CHURCH

810 E. HURON RIVER DR. BELLEVILLE, MI | 734.697.7456
Sunday | Adult Bible Fellowship & Children's Sunday
School 9:45am | Morning Worship 11am
Wednesday | Kids & Teens 6:45pm | Bible In Action 7pm
Visit bethanybiblechurch.com for more info

RIVER OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

16650 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI 48111
All services are open to in person or live stream.
Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Adult, Youth & Children @ 7 p.m.
Visit rol-ag.com (734) 699-6700

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

409 W. Columbia Avenue (734) 697-1211
• Saturday Mass: 6:00pm
• Sunday Masses: 8:30am & 10:30am
• Mondays: 6:30pm Adoration
www.stanthonybelleville.com

faith
Community Church
REACH • CONNECT • SERVE
JOIN US IN PERSON, ONLINE &
FOLLOW US ON

SUNDAYS @ 10 A.M.
Connect Classes
11 a.m. Sunday Worship
WEDNESDAYS @ 6 P.M.
S.O.S. Recovery & Support Group
WEDNESDAYS @ 7 P.M.
Bible Study & Youth Groups
894 E. Huron River Dr.
Belleville

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE
YOUR CHURCH LISTED IN
THIS DIRECTORY?
CALL ADVERTISING
MANAGER JANET MILLARD
AT 734-699-9020 TODAY!**

Obituaries



Donald Emerson Orr

DONALD EMERSON ORR

January 23, 1949 – March 14, 2025

Donald Emerson Orr, 76, of Belleville, Michigan, passed away peacefully at his home on March 14, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

Born on January 23, 1949, to Charles and Barbra Orr, Don lived a life full of laughter, service, and cherished memories. He was a proud veteran of the United States Army and later dedicated 32 years to Ford Motor Company as a committed UAW member.

Don is survived by his beloved daughters, Heidi Matts (Sparky) of Onsted, Michigan, and Kaki Prater of Taylor, Michigan; his granddaughters, Sarah Hall and Sammie Hall; and his great-granddaughter, Grace Hall. He also leaves behind his dear friend and neighbor, Ron Price of Belleville, Michigan, as well as his cherished feline companions, Jack, Diane, and Bubba.

Don was known for his remarkable storytelling, always quick to remind others, "Don't let the truth get in the way of a good story." His humor and companionship will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. He was deeply loved and will be forever missed.

DONNA SWEENEY

(June 8, 1939 – March 16, 2025)

Donna Sweeney, age 85, of Belleville, Michigan, passed away peacefully at her home on March 16, 2025.

Born in Wayne, Michigan to Joseph Samel and Agnes Spankie, Donna lived a life filled with adventure and cherished moments. She experienced the beauty of Hawaii, the history of Virginia, and ultimately settled in Belleville, Michigan, where she created a loving home.

Donna was a devoted mother to her son Bill and her daughter Linda, who survive her. She was preceded in death by her beloved sons Joe and Chuck. Her legacy extends to her six grandchildren: Betsy, Justin, Jordan, Jacob, Wes, and Aaron, and her eleven great-grandchildren, all of whom brought immense joy to her life. She will also be dearly missed by numerous other beloved family members and friends.

A woman of faith, Donna found solace and community in her church. She had a passion for life's simple pleasures, including dancing, challenging herself with jigsaw puzzles, and engaging in spirited card games with her friends. These activities brought her laughter and connection, creating lasting memories for those who shared them with her.

Donna will be remembered for her gentle spirit, her loving heart, and the warmth she shared with everyone she encountered. She leaves behind a legacy of love and family that will be cherished for generations.

Services to celebrate Donna's life will be announced at a later date.



Margie Wanda Burke

MARGIE WANDA BURKE

(March 10, 1940 – March 19, 2025)

Margie Wanda Burke, age 85, of Belleville, MI, formerly of Jacksboro, Tennessee, passed away late Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at her daughter's home, with her daughter at her side. She was born March 10, 1940, in Floyd County, Kentucky, daughter of Sol & Annie (Osborne) Tackett. She was a long-time Old Regular Baptist and a member of Ypsilanti Old Regular Baptist Church for over 50 years.

Margie is survived by her husband of nearly 66 years, Raymond Burke, loving daughter Elizabeth Ann (Steve) Mullins of Belleville, MI, 3 grandchildren: Dylan Lemasters, Cody Mullins, and Barbara (Gary) White; two great-grandchildren: Madison and Jordan White; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Margie was preceded in death by her parents, two sons, Raymond Bruce Burke, Richard Bryan Burke, also five brothers (James, Clarence, Sol Jr., Earl, Robert) and four sisters (Katie, Bertha, Clara, Mary).

Margie was an avid gardener, known for creating exquisite flower and rock gardens. Margie was affectionately referred to as the "flower lady". She was a highly skilled seamstress, and cake decorator, making many beautiful quilts and cakes over the years. Once a neighbor had entered one of the quilts in a contest, and had it not been for a single safety pin left on the quilt it would have taken first place.

Margie loved her church and family with all her heart and soul. She spoke of her nieces and nephews often, and family was everything to her. She will always be remembered for her fun-hearted ways, beautiful smile and gorgeous blue eyes. We will cherish the memories and carry her with us in our hearts forever and always.

Visitation was Friday, with a Funeral Saturday, March 22, 2025, at Ypsilanti Old Regular Baptist Church, 5668 Denton Road, Canton, MI 48188. Brother Danny Adams officiated. Interment followed in Cherry Hill Cemetery, Canton, MI. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI (734) 697-4500. Memorial contributions may be made to Ypsilanti Old Regular Baptist Church or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and would be appreciated. www.davidcbrownfh.com

CREMATION

**\$995.00 complete
NO Hidden Service Fees**

(800) 331-5051

**DUZAK Funeral &
Cremation Center, Inc.**

**Southeast Michigan's Lowest
Cremation Cost Provider
Since 1977**

www.duzakcremation.com

VBT

(continued from page 1)

this in Wayne County, Akers said.

A wastewater treatment plant in Salem would have discharged into Fellows Creek that runs through Canton, McNamara said.

"We're stuck with having it come right down Denton Road," McNamara said. "We're the luckiest people in the world."

Director Akers said YCUA reports it has capacity and Salem has leased and reserved capacity there since 2017, in case it was ever needed.

When McNamara asked Akers how much Van Buren had spent on trying to solve the drainage problem for property in the northwestern area, Akers said they've spent \$199,000.

Under the law, Salem has to have resolutions from the municipalities it plans to run its pipe through. In Van Buren it will be in the public right of way on Denton Road north of Willow Run Airport.

Plymouth and Canton already have passed resolutions of support and Akers said Van Buren was the last resolution they needed to move forward.

The resolution is only to complete a feasibility study of installing a sanitary sewer pipe in the area of Denton Road, north of Willow Run Airport.

The board unanimously passed the resolution.

Clerk Leon Wright was the only board member absent.

In other business at the 39-minute meeting, the board:

- Held a moment of silence in memory of longtime resident Gerald McKelvey who died March 9. Treasurer Sharry Budd listed some of his accomplishments and said, "He did wear many hats and he will be missed";

- Heard Supervisor McNamara read a letter from a man who said his wallet and phone were stolen at Meijer and the wallet contained a small piece of his late mother's hair and ashes. He praised Officer Andrew Fedel for working to find a picture of the person responsible and he obtained a license plate number. He said the case is not resolved and they have to find the person and bring him to justice. He said he just wants the township to know he appreciates the police officer going the extra mile;

- Congratulated director of recreation

Nicole Gerhart for getting a Recreation Leadership Award from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association. She has worked for the township since 2000;

- Approved the promotional personal services agreement with Brandon Patton as Water and Sewer Superintendent at a salary of \$84,667;

- Approved the first reading of an amendment to the zoning ordinance to rezone the property at 10401 Belleville Rd. from RM Multiple to C-1 General

Business, as it is designated in the Master Plan. Second reading and approval would be on the April 1 agenda. Only the northern 100 feet is RM zoning and needs to be rezoned. The El Car Wash owns the property and plans on building a car wash on the property. C-1 zoning lists car washes as needing special land-use approval and board members told the representative they think the traffic is too busy at that location and there is a car wash less than a mile away and another car wash under construction. The representative said when he comes back to the planning commission with their plans he will bring a traffic study, which has already been ordered;

- Heard McNamara ask the representative to tell them about the El Car Wash business and he said it is located in Florida and the last three years has been building in Southeastern Michigan. It opened two or three so far and plans ten more. It is the official carwash of the Detroit Lions, he said;

- Awarded the contract for the Beckley and North Shore Lift Station Improvements to JK of Michigan LLC. It was the lowest bidder and highly recommended. It was noted the lift stations were built in 1970 and while there is nothing wrong with them now, the township wants to stay ahead of the game, since it sees what is happening with the weather. The lift stations keep the sewage from backing up into basements;

- Approved the Fishbeck Engineering proposal for professional engineering

services for Beckley and North Shore lift stations construction administration, at a cost not to exceed \$29,700; and

- Received an update on construction of the Denton Road Bridge from director Akers. He said they have been drilling shafts and there has been a slight delay, but they will be back on schedule by the end of the month. He said for only a handful of days over the summer the boat traffic will have to be completely shut down. McNamara said they have been advised of Lakefest and other events.

Upcoming Meetings

- Tuesday, April 1 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., and workshop at 5 p.m. as needed

- Monday, April 7 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, April 8 – Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority (L DFA),

2 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township board meeting, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library, 7:30 p.m.

- Wednesday, April 9 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

- Thursday, April 10 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

- Monday, April 14 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons

- Tuesday, April 15 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., and workshop at 5 p.m. as needed

- Wednesday, April 16 – City of Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m., Belleville City Hall, 6 Main St.

- Tuesday, April 22 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 3 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township board meeting, 6 p.m.

- Wednesday, April 23 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

- Monday, April 28 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons



The Law Office of
Amy M. Eversole
• Estate Planning • Probate • Property Law
152 Main St. Suite 11 Call 734-718-8574
Belleville, Mich. 48111 www.amyversolelaw.com

J.R's Tree Service
734-250-3855
Jeremy Reber
owner
Free Estimate's
Tree Removal
Tree Trimming
Stump Removal
Fire Wood
Lot Clearing
Fully Insured

Arrwood Construction
Grading, Excavating, etc.
Bill Arrwood
owner
313-363-6590
49450 Judd Rd.
Belleville, MI. 48111
arrwoodconstruction@yahoo.com

Simple Alternatives
Cremation and Burial Services
DIRECT CREMATIONS
From \$1,495
Scott Beard
Manager/Director
19865 Sumpter Road
Belleville, Michigan 48111
☎ 734-699-6000
☎ 734-699-6060
✉ info@simplealternatives.net
🌐 www.simplealternatives.net

A-1 Quality
MOBILE HOME SERVICE
(734) 397-2615
"COMPLETE SERVICES"
1 YEAR WARRANTY ON ALL REPAIRS
W. LINSEA II
OWNER/OPERATOR
STATE LICENCED 50 YEARS
CANTON, MICHIGAN 48188

VISION REALTY CENTERS
Farrah Lofton
Realtor
Direct: 313-471-0495
Office: 877-787-6093
33137 Schoolcraft Rd.
Livonia, MI 48150
Email: Flofton@visionrealtycenters.com
Website: www.VisionRealtyCenters.com

Osborne Lawn Care
MULCH
TREE TRIMMING
POWER WASHING
GUTTER CLEANING
SNOW REMOVAL
LAWN MAINTENANCE
BELLEVILLE, MI
THOMAS OSBORNE
OWNER/OPERATOR
734-904-1600
734-740-5109

BEST CHIMNEY

OUR 63rd YEAR!

& MASONRY CO.

OUR 63rd YEAR!

★ CHIMNEYS BUILT, REPAIRED & CLEANED

★ MASONRY WORK

★ SCREENS INSTALLED

★ TUCK POINTING

★ GUTTERS

★ RESIDENTIAL

★ COMMERCIAL

★ VIOLATIONS CORRECTED

★ FLEXLINERS

★ CERTIFICATIONS INSPECTIONS

Licensed & Insured
State Lic # 40800
Family Owned

WE DO PORCHES

Workers Compensation & General Liability to Protect Homeowner

BBB

BEFORE AFTER

FREE Estimates

(734) 242-2992

bestchimneyandroofing.com

Since 1962

Equip yourself or your team with life-saving skills today! Sign up for our CPR & First Aid classes and get certified by professional instructors. Have questions? **Call 734-863-4CPR.**

Certifications We Offer:

- ♥ Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification
- ♥ Heartsavers CPR/AED Certification
- ♥ Heartsavers First Aid Certification

Get CPR Certified, visit ripplewavecpr.com

NEW YEAR NEW PRESIDENT...

NEW INSURANCE LAWS!

Do you know what's changing with your insurance?
I can help - **FREE** consultations!

health markets.

Connor Messina

CMessina@HealthMarkets.com

248-210-9192

186 Main Street, Belleville



Belleville Community Guard program at Owen School on April 3

At 8 p.m., Thursday, April 3, the Tiger Elite Winter Community Guards will host a free Friends and Family Show in the Owen Intermediate School gymnasium.

This event is an opportunity for the community to celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of its middle school and high school color guard teams following their performances at the Michigan Color Guard Circuit State Championships.

"We are also inviting community members to participate in a 'Try It with Your Friends and Family' hour from 7 to

8 p.m.," said administrative director Sarah Moon.

"This fun and interactive session will give attendees a chance to learn some color guard basics and experience what our performers do firsthand."

At 8 p.m., the teams will take the floor to showcase their full championship performances, bringing their 2024 season to an close with a final performance for family, friends, and the Belleville community.



The Pharmacy on Main St that's here to stay!

**248 Main St
Belleville, MI 48111**

Transfer to Milton's TODAY

Old Pharmacy

1 Call Milton's at **734-391-0190**

2 Tell us you want to **transfer** to Milton's

3 **Done**, we do the rest!

MILTON'S Pharmacy

Belleville news release

Belleville announces closing on 330 Charles St. for new city hall, PD

On Monday, the City of Belleville announced the official closing on the purchase of 330 Charles St., which will serve as the future home of Belleville's City Hall and Police Department.

According to the news release, this

acquisition marks a significant milestone in the City's ongoing efforts to enhance municipal services, improve accessibility for residents, and provide a more efficient and functional layout for city operations.

The new facility will also ensure a modern

and well-equipped environment to better serve the community.

"This is a monumental moment for Belleville," said Jason Smith, Belleville city manager. "The purchase of 330 Charles St. represents our commitment to modernizing city operations, providing our residents and staff with a more efficient layout and accessible building, and ensuring that our police department has the space to continue serving our community effectively."

The new facility will continue to keep police and administrative departments under one roof but with significant security and technology upgrades, the news release said.

The City is currently in the planning phase for the transition, with updates on renovations, timelines, and operational changes to be shared with the public in the coming months. The next phase for the City

is soliciting bids for a design/build contract for the renovations, with the winning bidder serving as the general contractor.

Mayor Ken Voigt added, "This new home for City Hall and the Police Department will serve as a foundation for future generations and a hub for civic engagement. Paired with the planned road projects, park improvements, and other significant investments, this will be a historic year for Belleville."

The mayor also said that thanks to the fiscal responsibility of past city councils, "We are able to purchase the building and make all the necessary renovations without incurring any debt or raising taxes."

For more information and updates on the project, visit the City's Facebook page or contact city manager Smith, at (734) 252-4307.



Photo courtesy of Don Sherman

The most recent link of the Iron Belle Trail through Van Buren Township was begun last week along Denton Road, south of the I-94 Service Drive. Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara said \$1 million of the funding for the trail came from the late Ralph Wilson, who once owned the Buffalo Bills football team. The walking/biking trail is a state project and will go from Belle Isle to Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula. In Van Buren Township it will run seven miles from Rawsonville Road on the west, through the city of Belleville, to the Lower Huron Metropark on the east. The path is being constructed in links and the township has been working on the project since 2019. Jeff Smith of PEA, Inc., civil engineers, said most of the path will be 100% in the county right of way about 12' off the road. If federal funds are used, it needs to be 10' wide with 2' shoulders on each side. If federal funds are not used, it can be 8' wide with shoulders, or it can be sidewalks not less than 5'.



734-252-5197



10792 Belleville Rd.
Belleville, MI 48111

SMART PHONE REPAIR





Solar Power & Energy Storage

Grid-Optional Design, Engineering, and Installation

- **Affordable:** cut wasteful utility bills down significantly!
- **Reliable:** battery system also serves as silent generator!
- **Sustainable:** clean, abundant power from the sun!

Our professional, local, & experienced team:



Steven 'Solar Steve' Sherman
Energy Systems Engineer
NABCEP - Photovoltaic Installation Professional
Certification #: PV-112124-014102



Jim Bates
50-year Master Electrician
Pioneer of renewable energy technologies
License #: 6208642

Send your utility bill today and let us design your dream energy system!

734.730.9858 | szsberman@gmail.com

DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAVE DIFFICULTY HEARING?

Living with hearing loss doesn't need to feel difficult overwhelming.
Hearing aids can help you to continue to live life to the fullest and hear what matters to you most!

Experience more of life today with
Better Hearing!

Vicki Harvey
Advanced Master
Hearing Care Practitioner

Did you know hearing loss can lead to Dementia, Social Isolation, and balance issues?* While the causes of hearing loss vary and are often affected by lifestyle and personal history, hearing aids are a viable solution to help improve your hearing. Your Beltone hearing care professional can help you understand your specific hearing loss and guide you toward a prescriptive hearing solution.

CALL NOW for your
FREE Hearing Screening!

Beltone accepts and coordinates with all hearing aid insurance providers. Call our office first for more details. We offer professional award-winning service, technology, and a FREE LIFETIME BELCARE TREATMENT PLAN.
CALL US DIRECTLY TO MAXIMIZE YOUR MEDICARE BENEFIT!

(734) 256-4113

35 Main St., Suite 101, Belleville, MI 48111
www.beltonehearingaid.com

*For more information regarding the effects of hearing loss, please visit:

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/wellness-and-prevention/the-hidden-risks-of-hearing-loss>

**Must complete screening to receive card, rules and restrictions may apply. See office for details. Beltone 2025™

ORPHAN OF THE WEEK SYMPHONY



MEET SYMPHONY!

Hi, I'm Symphony! I'm a super sweet but shy lady looking for a loving home. I need some time to come out of my shell, but once I feel comfortable I'm all purrs and snuggles! My perfect family will be patient and understand that I need time to settle into my new place.

I love to climb and hang out in high places, and I love to play with toys! But don't worry, once I've played for a while, I just want to snuggle and get as many pets as possible!

FMAR felines are spayed/neutered, microchipped, vaccinated for age-appropriate shots, and negative for FIV/FelV.

**Friends of Michigan
Animals Rescue**
51299 Arkona Road
Belleville, MI 48111
734-461-9458
www.friendsofmichigan.org



Photo special to the *Independent* by Elena Manalp, VBT Communications Dept. Recently, Elena Manalp of the Van Buren Township Communications Department, signed up for what she thought was a photography session at Savage Elementary School, but it turned out she had to read to the students instead. Van Buren Township Police Officers Juan Vargas, Jason Tront, and Lt. Mark Buckberry also volunteered to read. Van Buren Township Trustee Will Frazier had invited them. Manalp read "I Can Be Anything" to a group of fourth graders and teacher Mrs. Belloni, and one of the students recognized her from all the events she's attended around the area. At the end, Manalp asked if she could take their picture, and they wondered if it would be in the paper. She told them it's possible, and encouraged them to smile for the editor and the readers.

Spring SPA DAY 2025

- **FREE** Teeth Brushing
- Upgraded Shampoo & Conditioner
- Paw Treatment

(A \$50 value with any Full groom or Full bath booking).

Mention "SPRING SPA25"

Book online at Mainstreetpups.com

177 MAIN STREET BELLEVILLE, MI 48111 - 734.325.6069

Book Now!

**MAIN STREET
PUPS Inc.**
DOG GROOMING



April 2 – Millie Baker
April 5 – Marie Monge

Do you have a birthday soon? Does someone you know have a birthday? Let us know and we will print the name as soon as possible. For more information, call (734) 699-9020.

WE'RE OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY, 8AM-6PM

Schedule Your Appointment Today!

AMC
OF VAN BUREN

ANIMAL
MEDICAL
CENTER

ANIMAL MEDICAL CENTER of VAN BUREN

Scott Driscoll, DVM Keri Dasher, DVM

491 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111

734-699-6510

www.amcvanburen.com

SPECIALIZING IN LARGE AND HAZARDOUS REMOVALS

**PROFESSIONAL
TREE SERVICE**

24 Hr. EMERGENCY SERVICE
TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL
STUMP & SHRUBBERY REMOVAL
CRANE SERVICE • FIREWOOD
FULLY INSURED • FREE ESTIMATES
SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT

**EMERGENCIES &
BELLEVILLE AREA**

Call Joe (734) 664-9285
10% OFF MENTION AD
Call Tom (734) 864-2243



Photos special to the *Independent* by Elena Manalp, VBT Communications Dept.
On Friday a special commemoration of 50 years since the Vietnam War was held at the Belleville High School auditorium. Janet Millard, center, widow of a Vietnam veteran, welcomed the guests to the event. From left on stage are Van Buren Township Trustee Kevin Martin, Sumpter Township Trustee Tim Rush, Sumpter Township Treasurer Bart Patterson, Tony Soma, Leroy Paige, retired Van Buren Public Schools Superintendent Jim Richendollar, Belleville Mayor Ken Voigt, Grace Baptist Church Pastor Robert White, Sumpter Township Public Safety Director/Police Chief Eric Luke, and River of Life Church Pastor Eddie Marcum. The Belleville High School ROTC participated, as did other volunteers who handed out special pins to veterans and survivors of veterans.



Participants and friends pose for a group picture after Friday's special commemoration of the Vietnam War. From left, seated, are Karen McGasinski, Leroy Paige, Jeremiah Beebe, Bart Patterson, Tim Rush, Tony Soma, and James Richendollar. From left, standing, are Richard Pietrogallo, Pastor Eddie Marcum, Anthony Burdick, Les Powell, Janet Millard, Ken Voigt, Kevin Martin, Pastor Robert White, Eric Luke, Thomas Sienko, and unknown.



T-N-T
TREE SERVICE, INC.

Tree Removal • Tree Trimming
Tree Pruning • Brush Removal
Stump Grinding

OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
FULLY INSURED

Free Estimates • Senior Discounts
No Tree Too Big, No Tree Too Small

734-753-5800
TNTTREE.COM

CASH FOR YOUR HOME

ANY CONDITION OK

CALL US AND GET YOUR PRICE.

AERO REALTY
35890 GODDARD
ROMULUS, MI 48174

313-402-0187 OR 734-941-4595

\$

*To build a better world,
start in your own community!*



Care With Compassion

Nursing Care

Personalized Service

Need in-home health care for yourself or a loved one? Trust Love Is Zaki! We provide nursing care, respite relief, household assistance, medication reminders, and more.

Schedule a consultation today!

734-863-4HHC

loveiszaki.org

Thinking of buying or selling?

Our knowledge & Experience will guide you along the way





RON & JANE VESCHE
734.740.4165
WWW.VESCHETEAM.COM




District Library Board approves vape detectors for 6 public restrooms

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Building Committee of the Belleville Area District Library Board recommended the purchase of vape detectors for six public restrooms at the board's regular meeting on March 11.

The board unanimously approved the expenditure of \$10,301 to O'Neal Construction to provide, install, and wire the vape detectors. This includes a one-year Triton Cloud License, which gives access to the Triton Club dashboard and app for easy device management and other things.

The Triton Cloud License carries a yearly recurring fee of \$75 for each device.

Library Director Mary Jo Suchy said the devices will detect if someone is vaping marijuana or other substances, noting this has been an issue. She said the detectors

will alert by text message, app notification, email, or third-party video software. It can be silenced at certain times of the day.

Director Suchy said it can be used in any way they wish to set it. She said they will put up some warning signs.

"Schools use this," Suchy said. "It's very effective."

When people are found vaping they are sent from the library and unable to return, she said.

Board member Maria Jackson-Smith asked if anyone gets threatening when asked to leave and Suchy said that hasn't been their experience. She said a few years back an adult with mental problems knocked something over on the checkout desk before being expelled, but that was their only incident.

She said if people start vaping in library

corners if they find out they can't do it in the restrooms any more, they may have to get more detectors.

In other business at the hour-long meeting, the board:

- Heard visitor Barbara Miller, a member of the Detroit Institute of Arts Authority, say she has been urging the DIA to get the information out about what is offered by the millage-supported DIA. Miller said at the last meeting of the authority, she said she told members that librarians are key in their communities, countywide, and can get information out. There will be an invitation to all librarians to come to the DIA and Julie McFarland, executive director of community outreach, wants to meet with Suchy and Miller about what kind of program should be offered to the librarians on that day. Miller said Suchy is considered the prime library director in the county;

- Heard Suchy and board president Sharon Peters report on the current situation where Wayne County libraries were overpaid and underpaid on penal fines for ten years. Suchy said she did a deep dive into the data and discovered incorrect data in 2019 and 2020 equalling about \$16,000 to the Belleville library's benefit. The Belleville library was said to be overpaid \$139,087. Suchy emailed the Wayne County Treasurer's office which said the spread sheet would be revised. Suchy and Peters met with attorney G. Hans Rentrop, who the library board had hired, and he highly recommended that it is in the best interest of all parties to work toward a settlement agreement. He saw the benefit of having a county audit conducted and of having checks and balances in place to assure that this does not happen in the future. Peters said she was pleased with what the attorney said and she thinks he won't spend the entirety of the board's retainer by doing things not needed. Although some board members had wanted to get money back from the county for making the mistakes, the attorney said there is no basis to "get a pound of flesh" from the county and it is unknown if the county will do an audit. Peters said this will be an ongoing item of discussion in future board meetings;

- Learned full-time librarian Kelly Skinner is retiring from the library to pursue a new

career. She has been on staff since the 1990s. Substitute librarian Rachel Davies will be promoted to full-time adult services librarian. Davies works at a college now and will finish her semester there before beginning full-time here, Suchy said. Incoming library assistants were identified as Solina Robles and Samantha Shannon;

- Was informed the library is now offering free one-on-one tutoring with trained literacy volunteers. If anyone knows an adult who needs help reading, more information is available by contacting Jenn Richardson at (734) 699-3291 or jrichardson@belleville.lib.mi.us;

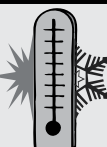
- Learned the Alzheimer's Association of Michigan is giving a presentation to empower caregivers, called "Building Foundations of Care," from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, March 26, in the Cozzad Room. Also, "Boredom Busting" programs for students is offered during spring break, March 24-27. Also a class, Starting Veggies from Seed for warm-season crops (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant...), will be presented at 6:30 p.m. March 26. "Grow Great Vegetables" is set at 6:30 p.m. April 16 and "Little Scientists' Plants" youth program is 2 p.m., April 26;

- Was informed the a food drive receptacle will be put in the lobby from March 17 to April 11 to collect food for Gleaners, in cooperation with The Library Network;

- Heard board member Dan Fleming say he needed help with his software Power Point and a library employee, Tam, helped him out. He was very grateful;

- Heard board vice-president Linda Priest say she met a neighbor who had lived in the city for 10 years and worked from home. The neighbor had never been to the library, so Priest said she brought her to the library and the lady really liked it. Board members said they are always amazed when people say they have never been to the library; and

- Heard Peters announce that she was informed about the Belleville Downtown Development Authority's special event for high school seniors from 1-3 p.m. on the last day of school, June 13. It will be in the alley next to the library, or the Fourth Street Square or on Main Street, or somewhere else, which is yet to be determined, Peters said.



Dudek Heating & Cooling

Service and Installation LLC

**Licensed and Insured • Free Estimates • Furnaces • Boilers
Air Conditioning • Duct Work • Humidifiers • Water Heaters
Generators • Electrical • Plumbing**

Keith Dudek : Owner
11681 Rawsonville
Belleville, MI 48111

Office: (734) 461-6165
Cell: (734) 730-9733

Who is training you to train your dog?

Now accepting reservations for group instruction starting April 2025:

- ✦ Next Puppy Class (6:30pm-7:30pm) April 3 thru May 1, 2025
- ✦ Next Intermediate Class (7:00pm-8:00pm) April 21 thru May 19, 2025

dogs by janet ~ Belleville



led by Janet Deaton
Certified Dog Trainer
janet@dogsbyjanet.com (734) 604-1720

© 2025 D' Enterprises, All Rights Reserved, USA

HONESTY IS OUR POLICY!



Lonnie's Auto Repair

AT 5-POINTS

NEW CUSTOMERS GET
10% OFF LABOR DURING OUR:
GET-TO-KNOW-YOUR-FRIENDS-TRUSTWORTHY-RELIABLE-AUTO-MECHANIC-SALE
WITH COUPON • LONNIE'S AUTO COUPON EXPIRES 4-30-25 BAI

DISC BRAKE SPECIAL
PREMIUM PADS & ROTORS,
INCLUDES LABOR, STARTING AT \$300
Most Cars. Restrictions Apply.
WITH COUPON • LONNIE'S AUTO COUPON EXPIRES 4-30-25 BAI

SENIORS, VETERANS & ACTIVE MILITARY TAKE
10% OFF YOUR TOTAL BILL
WITH COUPON • LONNIE'S AUTO COUPON EXPIRES 4-30-25 BAI

LET'S GET READY FOR SPRING!
VEHICLE CHECK
Belts, Hoses, Etc.

50 South Street at 5-Points, Belleville • 734-325-7065
Open Monday – Friday 8am - 6pm

NOW OPEN FOR THE SEASON!

TOPSOIL DELIVERED SPECIALS *Plus Tax
3 Yards Credit \$103*, Cash \$98*
5 Yards Credit \$145*, Cash \$140*
6 Yards Credit \$160*, Cash \$155*

TOPSOIL - U-PICK UP
\$20* Yard Credit, \$19* Yard Cash

Garden Blend Topsoil & Compost
100% Compost

Hours
MONDAY – SATURDAY
8 A.M. – 6 P.M.
SUNDAY
9 A.M. – 3 P.M.

DELIVERY AVAILABLE!

Website: yostsandandgravel.com
Email: yostsandandgravel@gmail.com

WE INSTALL GRAVEL DRIVEWAYS AND PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPING!

- Colored Mulch/Playground
- Sand – Pool, Fill & Sharp
- Hardwood Mulch
- Decorative Stones
- Driveway Gravel
- Pea Gravel • ¾ Float
- Asphalt Millings
- 1" – 1.5" Egg Rock
- 2" – 4" Round Rock
- 4" – 12" Oversize Rock

YOST SAND & GRAVEL

734 697-1183 45697 Ecorse Rd. • Van Buren Twp.

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

U-Lock-It Self Storage LLC

6130 Rawsonville Rd., Belleville, MI 48111
(734) 482-1502

Notice is hereby given that on 4/2/25 at 12:00 P.M. thru 4/9/25 at 12:00 P.M. contents of the following storage unit(s) will be sold online at:

Bid13.com

SPACE # A14 – Leonard Johnson

Unit(s) may or may not include the following: household items, recreational items, appliances, furniture, seasonal decorations, and tools.

Publish: March 20, 2025; March 27, 2025

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD – cut not split. Mostly maple, tarped all winter, approx. 10 face cords? Pick up, \$300.
(734) 740-0277 4/10

'84 HONDA BIG RED, E.S. Nice condition. \$2,250. (734) 740-0277 4/10

21' BAYLINER. GPS, power steering, engine runs great. \$1,200 OBO. (734) 325-5352 4/03

FIVE PLOTS, HILLSIDE CEMETERY. Call Steve (734) 502-4201 3/27

2020 CRUSADER 5TH WHEEL RV. 3 Slide outs with toppers, suspension upgrades. Used 3 times. \$27,000 OBO. (734) 309-5732 Tony 4/10

05 HARLEY DAVIDSON SOFTAIL. 12,200 miles, with jacket, helmet & cover. \$7,500 OBO. (734) 309-5732 Tony 4/10

WESTERN SNOWPLOW- 7 ½'. \$500 OBO. (734) 417-3233 4/03

FOOD GRADE BARRELS Plastic & metal. Inventory & pictures at www.mattsbarrels.com, call or text (734) 474-5981. Located in Willis. 5/01

FENCE BOARDS 2 x 6 and 2 x 8, reasonable. (734) 461-1414 06/27

YORKIE-PUGS, YORKIES, TEDDY BEARS, and other pups. \$499 & up. Frisky & vet checked. Ypsilanti. View puppies at petcitypets.com. (734) 487-0800 3/27

FREE

FREE FILL. Delivery available. (734) 697-1183. Yost Sand & Gravel. Belleville. TFN

VEHICLES FOR SALE

JIMMIES GEMS. Clean classic used cars. Call today. (734) 695-0819 4/10

1989 MUSTANG 5.0 CONVERTIBLE. 70,000 miles, new glass top, automatic, power windows, new battery, and radiator. \$13,000 OBO (734) 325-5352 4/03

2016 MALIBU LTD. Well kept, one owner. 106,000 miles with 1.5" hitch, spare tire, remote start. Call or text (734) 664-2155. \$10,000 OBO 04/03

2010 SUBARU FORESTER WAGON. AWD, full power, air, clean. 151,000 actual miles. Private owner. (734) 695-0819 4/10

1991 BUICK REGAL CUSTOM COUP. Rust free, 49,000 actual miles, female driver, private owner. (734) 695-0819 4/10

HELP WANTED

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Local Excavating Company
has openings for
LABORERS
Wages Negotiable.
Kovalak Excavating
Company
Call **734-461-6838**

ANGUS COW HELPER. Part time, afternoons, large animal experience preferred. Steady work, must be reliable. \$13/hr. Text (313) 648-6263 4/10

CAREGIVER NEEDED. Experience necessary. Monday evenings, 5pm-10pm. (734) 239-1035 3/27

COMMERCIAL CLEANING POSITION in Canton. Flexible hours & 7 days/week. Mon-Thurs. 9pm-12. Fri-Sun. 6pm-9pm. Offers competitive pay & a pleasant work environment. (734) 673-2364 or rdunn08@yahoo.com 4/03

PART TIME BOOKKEEPER for e-commerce (on-line) store. Experience a must. (989) 217-1685 4/10

"Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us ... To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known."

– Carl Sagan

SERVICES

A&L SERVICES
Home Improvement & Handyman Service
Painting, Drywall, Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, Ceramic Tile, Kitchens & Bath. **Serving Belleville Since 1995. Call Aaron Schultz @ 734-740-0628**

BEYOND HOME IMPROVEMENT
Kitchens – Baths
Plumbing – Concrete
Doors – Windows – Siding
Gutters – Basements
Drywall – Painting – Hauling
Senior & Veteran Discounts
Call Pete – (734) 636-3741

LET ME BE YOUR DOG WALKER. Call or text (734) 877-1648. Pet sitting also available. 4/10

DEPENDABLE LAWN SERVICE. Commercial & residential lawn cutting, aerating, mulch, shrub trimming, spring clean-up. De-thatching, sod & seeding. (734) 587-2410 or (734) 693-4712 9/04

MAKE A HOUSE A HOME LLC. Residential/commercial cleaning. 16 years experience. Emily, (734) 353-2198 3/27

INTERIOR / EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE. Painting, roof leaks, cleaning & gutter repair, landscape maintenance & power washing. (734) 796-3628 4/17

LARRY'S HANDYMAN SERVICE. No job too small. Interior/exterior painting, wallpaper, plumbing, powerwashing & carpentry. (618) 267-7774 10/02

**One Call Does It All...
...At The Independent
734-699-9020**

WANTED

ADVANCED H & W PAYING CASH
Buying Junk Cars & Trucks. Free 7 Day Pick Up. Call Today!
(734) 223-5581
(517) 605-6388

D.K. JUNK CAR BUYERS PAY CASH
We Work Monday – Saturday.
734-368-5088
734-545-5195

MUSICIANS WANTED. Looking to start up a classic rock band. (989) 217-1685 4/10

CASH PAID FOR Sports cards and Comic Books. 50s, 60s, 70s. Private collector can come to you. (734) 697-3546 3/27

WANTED – ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS for the homeless. Please drop off at Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Drive. (734) 697-5600 TFN

WANTED – SMALL CONTAINERS of shampoo, toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600 TFN

Notice to Advertisers:

The *Belleville-Area Independent* will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The *Independent's* liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the *Independent* be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



Musings

By Janet Millard
Independent
Advertising Director



Our new advertiser in the business card section, Christie Pagel from Van Buren Township, should be of great interest to parents of college-bound students. The purpose of Effective College Planning is to provide Michigan students and their families with time and money-saving strategies on a college education, if that is the path they choose. Higher education can include studying a trade, attending a community college and/or pursuing a

university education. When students and their families meet with Christie they gain valuable information that she has learned over a 25-year career in various roles as a high school and university advisor. She can meet with people throughout Michigan with sessions through Zoom or since she lives here you can meet her locally, as well. Group sessions are also available. Christie's website and phone number are in her ad.

Best Chimney is back and I want to point out the rest of their name: "& Masonry." Take a look at their ad to see that they do a whole lot more than just chimneys! If any of these fit your needs you will not go wrong with a company who has been in

business for 63 years!

Another new advertiser this week is SPR Belleville located in the Belleville Square Shopping Center on Belleville Road. They opened late last year and it is so great to have a company right here who can fix that cell phone when it's on the fritz. I know how painful it is to be without one. It is hard to believe how dependent we have become.

Congratulations to the BHS girls basketball team for winning the Division 1 State Championship for the first time in BHS history. Girl Power!

On the radio this morning they were taking about winning or not winning the

45-state lotto, and then the conversation turned to the Michigan Lotto. They were wondering why there wasn't more money for education when these funds were meant for our schools. I think it is because everyone, or most everyone, thought the lottery money would be the frosting on the cake and it just turned out to be the cake. The state does not fully fund education, the lottery money goes in the general fund and the State adds the rest. People, there is no frosting on that cake! If the lottery could fund the entire education budget then the State wouldn't add anything.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Janet Millard at (734) 699-9020.



They're reading the *Independent* Everywhere

Steve Blake of Van Buren Township took his *Independent* to India to attend the wedding of his partner's niece, who was married in the city of Bangalore. This picture was taken at the iconic Charminar mosque in Hyderabad, a must-see tourist spot surrounded by a very busy market.

You, too, are invited to submit a photo of you reading the *Independent* in an exotic location. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription when it is printed. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before goes in the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

If you aren't going to an exotic location, just send us \$55 for postage to an address inside Michigan or \$60 out of state, and we'll provide mail delivery of the *Independent* so you won't miss a single, exciting issue.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Thursday, March 27** – American Red Cross Blood Drive, noon to 6 p.m., Sumpter Township Community Center gymnasium, 23501 Sumpter Rd. For appointment log on to RedCrossBlood.org (sponsor code Sumpter), call the township office at (734) 461-6201, ext. 2226, or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).
- **Friday, March 28** – St. Aloysius, 37200 Neville St., Romulus, Lenten Fish Fry, homemade cod and shrimp dinners, 4:30-7 p.m. Baked or fried, \$15; pizza, \$6; kids meals, \$9. Credit and debit cards accepted. Curbside pickup, 313-597-3194.
- **Friday, March 28** – Lenten Fish Fry at 5 p.m. and Flaunt Love (2-person band) at Van Buren Eagles #3996, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township. Open to the public.

- **Saturday, March 29** – Dinner and live band at the Van Buren Eagles #3996, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township. Dinner is from 5 to 7 p.m. Smoked pork chops, macaroni & cheese, salad, bread, dessert. Tickets \$15. Live band: Circus of Soul at 7:30 p.m. Open to the public. Free entry for band.
- **Thursday, April 3** – If you own property on Ford or Belleville Lake, there is a workshop at 6 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library to promote water quality using lake-friendly practices on your property. This informational meeting is free and open to the public, but seating is limited to 50 people. Register at www.hrwc.org/shorelineworkshop
- **Thursday, April 3** – The Tiger Elite Winter Color Guards host a free Friends and Family Show at the Owen Intermediate School gymnasium at 7 p.m. Community members also are invited to participate in a "Try It with Your Friends and Family" hour from 7 to 8 p.m.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Having trouble finding the Belleville-Area Independent on the newsstands or just want to subscribe? Fill out the form below and send a check for \$55(in Michigan), \$60 everywhere else in the U.S. 6 month subscriptions are available for just \$27.50. To subscribe even faster, call us Monday - Friday between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (local time) at (734) 699-9020. We accept almost all credit/debit cards. We also have gift subscriptions available for any occasion. *Thank you!*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone# _____

Mail to: **Belleville-Area Independent**
152 Main St., Suite 9
Belleville, MI 48111

Just incase we have any trouble with your order.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Keystone Academy board agrees to spend \$4,650 on staff members

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After discussing the proposal at length at its regular meeting on March 13, the Keystone Academy Board of Directors agreed to recognize its 62 staff members with gift cards and food.

The \$50 per person gift cards, for a total of \$3,100, will be to Amazon, with Meijer as a second choice if Amazon doesn't work out. Food will be provided up to \$25 each, totalling \$1,550, for a grand total of \$4,650.

May 5-9 will be celebrated in all 100 of the National Heritage Academy charter schools as Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week.

"This week is an opportunity for NHA and partner boards to celebrate all staff members and the very important impact they have on the lives of children," said the NHA.

Office Staff Appreciation Week is April 21-25. Keystone has two such employees and \$75 each is being spent on them.

Keystone principal Jorvanna Drain announced that in the past the school was not allowed to give gift cards to the employees, but now it can.

NHA representative Andrew Roth said this is for all Michigan schools it is not to be more than \$170 each and it can't be VISA because that is cash. He said they have a legal opinion the school can do this.

Principal Drain said the staff members like the personal gifts at Christmas and they would love a gift card.

Last year the board paid \$2,000 for teacher appreciation.

When Drain found board resistance to the \$4,650 total, she said she has \$2,900 left over from her budget for Family Fun Night and that could be used to help. Family Fun Night could be closed out and put back in the budget for use by the board for this.

Board president Steve Harsant didn't like that much money being spent in this way.

"I don't understand the hesitation," Drain said. "You have \$60,000 [left in the board budget]. What are you going to spend it on?"

"We started to put things on the playground and then stopped," president Harsant said.

"You said no," Drain responded. "I did investigation and presented it and it was denied." She said it took a lot of her time to put the proposal together and so she stopped.

"If you want to do something, let me know how much you want to spend," she said.

The voting on the staff recognition item was placed at the very end of the meeting agenda and then approved as presented by Drain.

"You drive a hard bargain," Harsant said and Drain replied, "That's my job."

In other business at the March 13 meeting, the board:

- Approved matching the PTO's \$1,000

for alumni scholarships as requested. Two, \$1,000 scholarships are presented to students graduating from high school who had graduated from eighth grade at Keystone and spent four years at Keystone. There was some discussion and confusion

about a proposal by the PTO to change the qualification for the scholarships. But the board wants it to stay at least four years at Keystone and graduated from eighth grade at Keystone;

- Approved the school calendar for the

2025-26 school year, with Aug. 25 as the first day of school for students and June 5, 2026 as the last day of school. This is for 180 school days and 1,174.92 instructional hours. Full school day hours are 8 a.m. to

(continued on page 19)

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice



VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Charter Township of Van Buren Annual Cemetery Cleaning Notice

The Department of Public Services will be conducting its annual spring cleaning at all Township cemeteries.

Spring cleaning will begin Monday, April 14, 2025

Receptacles placed on graves such as flowerpots, religious items and similar objects will be discarded if not removed April 14

New items may be displayed beginning Friday, April 18, 2025

Van Buren Township provides maintenance for the following cemeteries:

- Denton** - 49780 Cross St. (Michigan Avenue and Denton Road)
- Soop** - 49250 Denton Road (South I-94 Service Drive and Denton Road)
- Tyler** - 39820 Tyler Road (Tyler and Hannan Roads)
- Otisville** - 41875 Riggs Road

For additional information contact
The Clerk's Office at 734.699.8909

Leon Wright
Township Clerk

Published: March 27, 2025

Published: April 3, 2025

Published: April 10, 2025

Belleville DDA

(continued from page 1)

treated with chemicals which will go on for four months to retard their growth. Jones said the DDA is trying to stay ahead of the pretty severe invasive species. The Victoria Commons Homeowners Association president said, "There's a pond there now. You can see water";

- Approved replacement of the fountain pump in the middle pond at Victoria Commons with a \$4,900 pump by Water Landscapes, LLC of Waterford, MI;
- Discussed a proposed BBQ event for Sept. 20 that would be a mini-event of the full-fledged competition the DDA is hoping to put on. Jones said there are BBQ events in Michigan in March and May where they can see how these events are run. Mayor Voigt said these are like a rodeo circuit and nationally certified competitors live locally and will help the DDA understand how it's done, with a goal of the city being a stop on the BBQ national circuit. Jones said after DDA representatives attend the Michigan BBQ events, "We can see if we want to do it";
- Hired Goodbye Geese to replace the Geese Chaser owners who retired. Goodbye Geese will charge \$870 a month

for six months for a total of \$5,220. They also take a paddleboat out into the lake to chase the geese. Mayor Voigt said the state changed the rules on geese to make it easier to get rid of geese. Mayor Voigt said it sure was nice to have a clean Horizon Park last summer for the lakeside concerts;

- Approved funds requested by local groups: CBC, \$8,771; Music Lakeside, \$3,000; Lakefest, \$10,000; Winterfest, \$5,000; and Margaritaville, \$1,500, for a total of \$28,271 in grants;
- Learned the annual round of temporary sculptures will be installed in May at the same locations are previously in Van Buren Township and Belleville, except for the library sculpture to be put up outside the children's section instead of its previous location. The cost and work is split with VBT, Jones said. The sculptures to be used are selected by a committee from the 300 presented. Mayor Voigt said the current sculpture with three goats will be placed at Horizon Park because there are donations to buy two of the three goats and they hope to get someone to donate to buy the third goat. He said after the lakeshore is fixed up, the goats will be put on the upper lake bank to honor the goats who have been working on the Horizon Park shoreline;
- Tabled a public wireless proposal for

the DDA district for more information. The original cost is \$15,857 with \$357 a month. Winter said T-Mobile should come and do a presentation for the DDA to discuss the benefits;

- Heard Chris Donley give a report from the Marketing committee on talks with the three hotels on working with them to bring shoppers to the city. The hotels will hand out printed materials with QR codes that the DDA will provide. There could be discounts if they offer cards. He said business owners should sign to commit to particulars for a year. Donley set the end of May as his goal to get this set up. The DDA would manage the changing information on the QR code. Mayor Voigt said he would like to see the DDA split the \$800 cost per business, per year, for the signs on I-94 directing drivers into Belleville;
- Heard Jones report he met with people from Tech Town Detroit and Wayne State University on plans for the former hardware store. They turned in a proposal earlier that day and he will get it to the DDA for its next meeting. He said it could be based on DHive Detroit, with an anchor coffee shop, pop ups, and other businesses;
- Heard Mayor Voigt say he has a job description for a DDA director and he said he asked Donley to put together a part on accountability. Donley mentioned having project tracking and timelines so the director can easily update the DDA on projects. "We can see our progress and his work. I'll share more in the next meeting," Donley said;
- Heard Diedre Creal of BB's Boutique give a lengthy citizen comment on how she is so frustrated by the vacant buildings in the DDA district. She said she and her husband Peter own the shop. She said she learned the DDA is in effect to bring new businesses in, which would help with the foot traffic for the present businesses and that isn't happening. She said her store has had the worst six months since its opening three years ago. She said the Van Buren Township DDA director gave her direction to reach out to a group in Romulus on how to get grants for small businesses. She said it's a shame they had to reach out to another community for help. She said a pedestal sign with the names of those in the new shopping center would help so drivers can see what shops are there. She said taxes are high and a full-time DDA director is needed, instead of their plan to hire a marketing company. She said a better pedestrian walkway across Main Street is needed. "You can have all the BBQ parties you want, but everything still looks abandoned," she said;
- A woman in the audience, who said she deals in mortgages, said shopping center owner Scott Jones is appealing his city taxes because they are triple what he was told they would be by the assessor. "He should have been able to get a correct number," she said. Chairman Winter said he didn't know it was a problem and Mayor Voigt said, "How are we supposed to know if someone doesn't tell us?" Jones said if anyone has any problems to let him know and he will take it to the assessor, who is

only in the city one day a week; and

- Heard Mike Gatteri say the vacant businesses on Main Street is a concern, but CVS said it wasn't going to rent it out. But at the meeting he was told a "for lease" sign has now been put up. "My frustration is how slow government moves," he said. Creal asked if they could get a sign grant and Jones said that would have to go through Scott Jones since the shopping center is his property. "Present it to us and we can try to make that work," Gatteri said. "We really are trying," Winter assured her.

HVA recredited by CAAS for excellence standards compliance

On Feb. 24, Huron Valley Ambulance (HVA) received re-accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) for its compliance with national standards of excellence.

HVA is one of 180 ambulance services in the country to successfully complete the voluntary review process which included completion of a comprehensive application and on-site review by national experts in emergency medical services (EMS).

The commission is a non-profit organization which was established to promote quality patient care in America's medical transportation system. This is accomplished by establishing national standards which not only address the delivery of patient care, but also the ambulance service's total operation and its relationships with other agencies, the general public, and the medical community. The commission's standards frequently exceed state or local licensing requirements.

CAAS reported "no deficiencies cited" and praised Huron Valley Ambulance as "a phenomenal EMS provider" during their recent three-day on-site inspection, which occurs every three years. The inspectors were also especially pleased with the training system for new EMT's and Paramedics.

"Achieving CAAS re-accreditation is a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence in patient care and out-of-hospital care, said Ron Slagell, HVA CEO. "This recognition reflects the dedication and professionalism of our entire team, who work tirelessly to ensure the highest standards in EMS. We take great pride in being among the nation's elite ambulance services, and we will continue striving to provide the best possible care to our community."

Established in 1990, CAAS is an independent, non-profit corporation with a nine-member board of directors.

The board sets policy for the commission's operations as well as ongoing monitoring/revision of the commission's standards.

*To build a better world,
start in your own community!*

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES March 18, 2025

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Boynton, Trustee Martin, Trustee Frazier and Trustee Kelley. Absent/Excused: Clerk Wright. Others in attendance: Deputy Supervisor Selman, Recording Assistant Beaudry, Director of Community Services Renaud, Deputy Director of Community Services Dohring, Director of Parks Locke, IT Director Barbaza, Director of Public Services Lockett, Director of Water and Sewer Miner, Director of Recreation Gerhart, DDA Director Coburn, Director of Municipal Services Akers and an audience of three.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA: Supervisor McNamara outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Budd moved, Martin seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA: Boynton moved, Kelley seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2025, Prepaid List of March 6, 2025, Prepaid List of March 13, 2025, Voucher List of March 18, 2025, and Approval of the Promotional Personal Services Agreement for Brandon Patton to Water and Sewer Superintendent. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

A moment of silence was held in remembrance of longtime Township resident Jerry McKelvey, Recreation Director Nicole Gerhart received the Recreation Leadership Award from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association, and Officer Fedel was recognized for going

above and beyond while assisting a resident.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Boynton moved, Budd seconded to approve Resolution 2025-07: To grant consent to Salem Township to study a pathway to construct a sewer line within the public right of way through Van Buren Township. Motion Carried. Boynton moved, Kelley seconded to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 03-18-25 which is an ordinance to amend the Township zoning ordinance to rezone the property at 10401 Belleville Road from RM Multiple to C-1 General Business. Motion Carried.

Martin moved, Budd seconded to approve the Beckley and North Shore Lift Station Improvements to be awarded to JK of Michigan LLC and to be paid out of Capital Outlay- Lift Station 592-537-971-004. Motion Carried. Kelley moved, Frazier seconded to approve a Fishbeck Engineering proposal for professional engineering services for Beckley and North Shore Lift Station Construction Administration. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.

BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Supervisor McNamara asked about Denton Road Bridge updates. Director Akers reported that they will soon start drilling to install shafts and parts of Belleville Lake will be closed for construction. The Township will communicate the dates when they become available.

ADJOURNMENT: Boynton moved; Frazier seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
Published: March 27, 2025

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 259 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week including the following.

Sunday, March 16:

0117 – welfare check, Rawsonville Rd./Grove Rd.
0257 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
0438 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0945 – property damage accident, EB Michigan Ave. / bypass
1025 – intrusion alarm, Samuel Barton
1206 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – misc. complaint, Robson Rd.
1455 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1458 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
1515 – civil matter, Stonebridge Dr.
1507 – personal injury accident, Village Center Dr.
1537 – intrusion alarm, Milton Dr.
1541 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1643 – assist fire dept., Denton Rd.
1843 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1849 – welfare check, Tyler Rd./Andover Dr.
1915 – assist fire dept., Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1926 – domestic, E. Archwood Dr.
2044 – assist other dept., Owen St.
2148 – 911 welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
2150 – civil matter, Tyler Rd.
2355 – juvenile complaint, Michigan Service Dr. / Cemetery Rd.

Monday, March 17:

0055 – suicidal person, N. Adams
0110 – property check, Belleville Rd.
0245 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0420 – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
0524 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – welfare check, Renton Rd.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Van Born Rd.
0821 – welfare check, Rolan Meadows Dr.
0918 – animal complaint, Savage Rd.
0916 – private property/property damage accident, Savage Rd.
0929 – parking complaint, Denton/Denton Rd.
1014 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1108 – larceny, Parkwood Dr.
1153 – malicious destruction of property, Lancaster Dr.

1216 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Van Born Rd.
xxxx – threat, Leon Dr.
1343 – animal complaint, Savage Rd.
1441 – harassment call, Lake Point Blvd.
1507 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Beck
1603 – assist other dept., Village Green Ln.
1603 – unauthorized driving away of auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.

1844 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.
1822 – misc. complaint, Deanna Dr.
1909 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./E. I-94
2003 – background investigation, Tyler Rd.
2006 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Tyler Rd.

2106 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Denton Rd.

2313 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Tuesday, March 18:

0404 – breaking & entering, Maurice Dr.
0442 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Tyler Rd.
0805 – animal complaint, Savage Rd.
0826 – domestic, Brandi Dr.
1017 – civil matter, E. Archwood Dr.
xxxx – private property impound, Water's Edge
1349 – animal complaint, Country Ln.
xxxx – private property impound, Van Born Rd.
1432 – juvenile complaint, Meadows Ln.
1437 – abandoned auto, Beck/Ecorse
1511 – assist fire dept., E. I-94/N. Haggerty I94 ramp E.
1642 – property damage accident, Rose Blvd.
1704 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, DNR boat launch, Rawsonville
1850 – welfare check, Tyler Rd./Morton Taylor
xxxx – animal complaint, Country Walk Ct.
2017 – 911 welfare check, Belle Pointe Dr.

2034 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belle Pointe Dr.

2250 – intrusion alarm, N. I-94 Service Dr.

Wednesday, March 19:

0007 – road hazard, E. I-94/Haggerty Rd.
0024 – intrusion alarm, Huron River Dr.
0113 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd./Tyler Rd.
0204 – civil matter, Brandi Dr.
0303 – road hazard, W. I-94/Belleville Rd.
0641 – missing person, E. Sadie Ln.
0948 – welfare check, Jeremy Rd.
1105 – 911 welfare check, Ecorse Rd./Sheldon Rd.
1106 – 911 welfare check, Samuel Barton Dr.
1320 – road hazard, Hannan Rd./Huron River Dr.
1318 – warrant arrest, Warren PD
1308 – animal complaint, Country Ln.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.

1452 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Martinsville Rd.

1455 – misc. complaint, Savage Rd.

1527 – neighbor trouble, Sunrise Ln.

1555 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Riggs Rd.

1706 – welfare check, Park Estates Dr.

1724 – intrusion alarm, Tavistock Dr.

1732 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.

1733 – welfare check, E. I-94/Belleville Rd.

1818 – welfare check, Jeremy Rd.

1907 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Hardwood Dr./Cottonwood Dr.

1907 – vehicle lockout, Lake Villa Dr.

1917 – vehicle lockout, Coca-Cola Dr.

1945 – fraud, Belleville Rd.

2012 – property check, W. Huron River Dr.

2028 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Haggerty Rd.

2058 – welfare check, Aspen Ln.

2121 – hospice death, McBride Ave.

2228 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Hoeft Rd./W. Huron River Dr.

Thursday, March 20:

0000 – personal injury accident, E. I-94/Belleville
xxxx – 911 welfare check, McBride Ave.
0231 – family trouble, Bradley Dr.
0629 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd./Bemis Rd.

0830 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Wildflower Ct.

0854 – follow up by officer, rest area

0910 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.

0911 – road hazard, W. Huron/RR tracks

0957 – fraud, Country Walk Ct.

1004 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, W. Huron River Dr.

1229 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd.

1257 – animal complaint, Venetian Ave./Dewitt

1312 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. I-94 Service Dr.

1420 – warrant arrest, E. Medical Center

1427 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.

1557 – warrant arrest, 5 Mile

1503 – private property impound, W. Schooner Dr.

1541 – welfare check, S. Sadie Ln.

1609 – mental subject, Crowley Ave.

1645 – civil matter, E. Archwood Dr.

2128 – family trouble, W. Huron River Dr.

2237 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.

2255 – assist other dept., Gilmore St.

2353 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Briarcliff Dr.

Friday, March 21:

0042 – intrusion alarm, Belmont Dr.

0053 – disorderly, Ecorse Rd.

0204 – family trouble, Haggerty Rd.

0229 – assist other dept., N. I-275/Ecorse

0749 – road hazard, Michigan Ave./Ecorse Rd.

1003 – fraud, Belleville Rd.

1126 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1244 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr.

1214 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Ecorse

1332 – fraud, Belleville Rd.

1622 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.

1624 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd./Haggerty Rd.

1705 – welfare check, Richmond

1836 – 911 welfare check, Lake Point Blvd.

1842 – property damage accident, Hannan/Van Born

1913 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.

1956 – civil matter, Rawsonville Rd.

2008 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.

2011 – domestic, Belleville Rd./Tyler Rd.

2052 – noise complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.

2300 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Ash Dr./Maple Dr.

2357 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sumpter Rd./Hull Rd.

xxxx – repossession, Kirkridge Park Dr.

Saturday, March 22:

0700 – animal complaint, DNR boat launch, Rawsonville

xxxx – repossession, W. Walden Dr.

0852 – warrant arrest, Michigan Ave.

xxxx – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.

0938 – assist fire dept., E. I-94/Haggerty Rd.

1103 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.

1059 – felony assault, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.

1127 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

1342 – parking complaint, Hamlin St.

1402 – civil matter, Mantauk Ct.

1440 – assist other dept., Rose Blvd.

1438 – missing person, Oak Blvd.

1827 – animal complaint, Ayres Ave.

2018 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Adams St.

2122 – PPO violation, Ash Dr.

2247 – domestic, N. I-94 Service Dr.

Also, on this log are 93 traffic stops, 9 of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 16:

0039 – 911 welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.
1621 – breaking & entering, S. Industrial Park Dr.
2042 – breaking & entering, Owen St.
2306 – civil matter, Anaheim St.

Monday, March 17:

0129 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sumpter Rd.

0205 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.

0700 – property damage accident, Main St.

0743 – larceny, W. Columbia Ave.

1117 – animal complaint, W. Columbia Ave.

1507 – assist fire dept., Light Tower Ct.

1620 – civil matter, E. Huron River Dr.

2107 – assist fire dept., Main St.

Tuesday, March 18:

0819 – assist fire dept., Savage Rd.

0927 – animal complaint, E. Huron River Dr./Loza Ln.

1158 – property damage accident, N. Liberty / E. Huron River Dr.

1219 – property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr. / N. Liberty St.

1606 – private property impound, Loza Ln.

1922 – property damage accident, South St. / E. Wabash Ave.

2300 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Owen St.

Wednesday, March 19:

1324 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, E. Columbia Ave.

1440 – malicious destruction of property, W. Columbia Ave.

1501 – parking complaint, Sumpter Rd.

1536 – fraud, Charles St.

1915 – 911 welfare check, Victorian Ln.

2029 – civil matter, Belle Villa Blvd.

Thursday, March 20:

0930 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, E. Huron River Dr.

1256 – animal complaint, E. Huron River Dr.

1426 – welfare check, E. Columbia Ave.

1557 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Main St.

1705 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.

2042 – civil matter, Anaheim St.

Friday, March 21:

0140 – overdose, S. Biggs Ave.

1040 – intrusion alarm, Main St.

1104 – parking complaint, Main St.

1217 – domestic, W. Thornhill Ct.

1452 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.

1836 – disorderly, Carmell St.

1913 – property damage accident, South St. / E. Wabash Ave.

2213 – disorderly, Carmell St.

Saturday, March 22:

0529 – domestic, S. Biggs Ave.

0844 – intrusion alarm, E. Waterbury Ct.

1124 – civil matter, Brain St.

xxxx – misc. complaint, Oxford Ct.

1413 – civil matter, Brain St.

1528 – civil matter, N. Biggs Ave.

1758 – trespassing, S. Biggs Ave.

1832 – harassment call, Main St.

There are 102 reports on this week's log and 56 of these are traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 16:

0515 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1135 – alarm, 9300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1325 – suspicious person, Colorado St.
1443 – subpoena service, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1503 – suspicious circumstance, Birch Dr.
1829 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
2001 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2039 – suspicious circumstance, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Monday, March 17:

1056 – traffic complaint/hazard, Martinsville Rd. / Willow Rd.

1245 – found property, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1245 – family trouble, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1409 – civil matter, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.

1502 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

1526 – family trouble, Arizona St.

1628 – suspicious circumstance, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

1826 – suspicious circumstance, California St. / Montana St.

1933 – civil matter, 21000 bl. Bohn Rd.

2032 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Willow Rd.

2204 – assist other agency, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.

Tuesday, March 18:

0049 – citizen assist, Judd Rd./Martinsville Rd.

0505 – family trouble, Hampshire Dr.

0812 – animal complaint, Willow Rd./Haggerty

0930 – civil matter, Idaho St.

1049 – animal complaint, Sherwood Rd./Wear Rd.

1356 – suspicious circumstance, 47000 bl. Wear

1629 – fire dept. assist, 39000 bl. Judd Rd.

2013 – assist other agency, Martinsville/Mulberry

2038 – 911 hangup, Hampshire Dr.

2133 – 911 hangup, Hampshire Dr.

2231 – animal complaint, Rawsonville/Willow

Wednesday, March 19:

0300 – family trouble, Magnolia Dr.

0749 – death investigation, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.

0844 – assist other agency, out of township

0918 – assist other agency, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.

1128 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Wayside Dr.

1241 – open burning, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.

1256 – 911 hangup, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.

1434 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Traskos Ave.

1613 – assist other agency, out of township

1725 – suspicious person, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

1819 – property damage accident, Rustic Ln.

1835 – open burning, 43000 bl. Wear Rd.

1947 – alarm, 9300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

Thursday, March 20:

0612 – traffic complaint/hazard, Harris/Sumpter

1142 – animal complaint, Arkona Rd./Elwell Rd.

1224 – 911 hangup, 21000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

1323 – civil matter, 43000 bl. Bemis Rd.

1509 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Reed Ave.

1616 – suspicious vehicle, Sherwood/Willow

1857 – suspicious vehicle, Arizona St.

1922 – subpoena service, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

2155 – suspicious circumstance, 40000 bl. Bemis

2219 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.

Friday, March 21:

0022 – civil matter, Magnolia Dr.

0155 – noise complaint, Creekside Dr.

0230 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.

1110 – fire dept. assist, Dakota Ct.

1148 – missing person report, 23000 bl. Sumpter

1227 – property damage accident, Rustic Ln. / Timberlane Dr.

1258 – traffic complaint/hazard, Wear/Sherwood

1417 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Iowa

1418 – suspicious person, Delaware/California

1611 – mental health call, Colorado St.

1711 – shots fired, Birch Dr.

Keystone

(continued from page 16)

3:20 p.m. and half-day hours are 8 to 11:20 a.m.;

• Approved the 2025-26 Keystone board meeting calendar, with meetings scheduled on the second Thursday of each month at 5 p.m.;

• Heard Roth say the 83-page Annual Education Report for 2024-25 which is required of all schools in Michigan, is included in the packet, is on the school website, and is being made public to all. He said it is from the Michigan Department of Education. It meets the federal requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA);

• Heard Roth encourage board members

to take the Board Satisfaction Survey which will be available April 1 and is due by April 30. He said NHA values the feedback from board members;

• Was informed the agenda item on the 2026-27 open-enrollment period is moot and the board doesn't need to talk about it. He said open enrollment is supposed to end the Friday after Thanksgiving, but that date will probably be revised;

• Heard Roth explain the NHA partnering with Basis Policy Research for a study that analyzes student test score data. It shows that if NHA's Michigan schools were their own state they would have more than 70% of their students falling below the poverty line, rank above the national average for student proficiency in three of the four

NAEP-tested subjects, rank above the state of Michigan as a whole in all four NAEP tested grade/subject combinations, and rank fourth in the nation in eighth-grade reading and 10th in math. Roth said the study results justify for charter schools in general;

• Discussed the July 14-16 NHA Board Symposium in Grand Rapids which will celebrate 30 years of NHA. Roth said this month's board video will feature NHA founder J.C. Huizenga talking about the celebration of 30 years of service;

• Was invited to the Bay Mills Community College Appreciation Dinner on April 24 by Bay Mills representative Brittany Cook;

• Heard Drain report that there is now a vacancy in the 7th grade ELA position because a teacher had an accident and went on medical leave. Also, a second grade teacher has left for medical reasons;

• Heard Keystone had a non-academic goal on attendance and getting the kids to school. Drain said the new attendance liaison started in November and the board passed a new attendance policy. There were 600 less absences this year from last year. She said Keystone met their non-academic goal on attendance;

• Learned 71 students and staff dressed like Drain in gray and black on Twin Day. At the last minute, Drain decided to reach out to those who hadn't teamed up with a twin for the special day and she was so surprised. Those who hadn't arranged for a twin were so happy to twin with the principal; and

• Was informed three authors will be present to talk to students in three different grade sections on March 18, 19, and 20 and each student will get a free book from their author. Authors visiting will be Ruth Barshaw, Aaron Zens, and Jon Rand. Also announced was the Free Spring Book Fair April 21-23, where students will get two to four books each. The big PTO school carnival is April 12.

The minutes of the Feb. 11 meeting gave more information than was given at the meeting. The student who was expelled for 180 school days was a seventh-grade boy. The reason given was possession of tobacco on school grounds and persistent disobedience.

Keystone Academy graduates eligible to apply for scholarships

High school seniors who graduated from the eighth grade at Keystone Academy in Sumpter Township are invited to apply for two, \$1,000 scholarships to a post-high school educational institution.

The scholarship will be offered to two high school seniors no matter where they are graduating, as long as they completed eighth grade at Keystone and were a student at Keystone for at least four years.

Deadline for application for the scholarships offered by Keystone Academy and the Parent Teacher Organization is April 21, 2025. The application is partially based on a one-to- two-page essay on perseverance and the writer's strengths that helped successfully navigate through their academic career.

The application form also calls for a grade point average, school counselor's name, and student's address and phone number.

Applicants should provide details around extra-curricular activities, as well as school and community services they have been involved in at Keystone and the current high school or home school.

Information has been sent to Belleville High School, Canton Prep, Milan High School, ECA (Early College Alliance) and other schools.

For more information, go to keystoneacademypto@gmail.com or the Keystone PTO Facebook page.

The winning applicants will be invited to this year's eighth-grade graduation ceremony where they will be presented with a certificate and the scholarship check to be applied to their post-high school educational institution.

Sumpter Nixle alert:

Wildfire risk is high - refrain from all burning

On March 20, Sumpter Township Police Department issued the following Nixle alert:

"Due to the current dry ground conditions in our area, the fire department has responded to several field fires, including one that burned several acres. These fires started as small brush burn piles but quickly spread out of control because of the dry conditions and windy weather.

"We request that you postpone any open burning in the township until we receive substantial rainfall and the ground conditions improve. The wildfire risk in our area is currently rated as HIGH. Here's what this designation means:

"When the fire danger is rated 'High,' fires can easily start from a variety of causes. Small fuels, such as grasses and needles, ignite readily. Unattended campfires and brush fires are likely to escape containment. Fires can spread quickly, especially in areas with slopes or concentrated fuels, and can become severe and difficult to control unless extinguished while they are still small.

"Please do not risk your property, your neighbor's property, or the safety of our firefighters. Remember, you are liable for any damage caused by your fire."

Accurate Dental Denture Inc.

"Serving the Belleville and Van Buren community for over 20 years with quality and caring service."

CROWNS • ROOT CANALS • EXTRACTIONS • FILLINGS
WHITENING • BONDING • DENTURES (SOFT & FLEXIBLE)

Quality Dentures at Affordable Prices!

HEALTHY KIDS DENTAL
Accepting Blue Cross Complete, Molina, Wellcare, Meridian & Medicaid!

SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS

SAME DAY DENTURE REPAIRS
Immediate Dentures and Flippers Available.

734-697-5477
781 Sumpter Rd. Belleville (In Belle Plaza)

COMPLETE DENTURE or PARTIAL \$549⁰⁰ EACH CALL FOR DETAILS
WITH COUPON

NEW PATIENT SPECIAL \$49⁹⁹ WITH COUPON Includes Exam, Cleaning & X-Rays

IS YOUR BUSINESS A TARGET FOR BURGLARS?

734-697-2888

BREAK-INS CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Get SERIOUS about your Security!
WE CAN PROVIDE A REAL SOLUTION for BOTH your Business & Home...

- Remote Control-View-Playback
- Email / Smartphone Alerts
- PC / Mac Support
- No monthly fees

\$1500

Includes:

- Installation
- 4) HD Cameras (bullet or dome)
- 19" Monitor
- DVR (2TB)



Actual hardware may vary.



innovative
COMPUTERS
Full-Service IT • Networks • Cameras

A veteran-owned company, supporting Michigan businesses since 1995.

Serving Metro Detroit to Lansing • InnovativeComputers.net

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 18)

1907 – suspicious circumstance, Florida St.
2048 – assist other agency, 10000 bl. Rawsonville
2128 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Willow Rd. / Karr Rd.
2258 – alarm, 26000 bl. Karr Rd.
2321 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.

Saturday, March 22:
0041 – traffic complaint/hazard, Rawsonville Rd. / Rustic Ln.
0245 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.
0436 – operating under the influence of drugs arrest, Rawsonville Rd./Wear Rd.
1056 – animal complaint, 8600 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1321 – animal complaint, 27000 bl. Martinsville
1908 – fire dept. assist, Arizona St.
1942 – animal complaint, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
2108 – follow-up investigation, out of township
2227 – family trouble, Oregon Pl.

Also on this week's log are 199 patrol checks, 87 traffic stops, and 10 misc. details.



RE/MAX

CROSSROADS III

418 Main Street

Belleville, Michigan 48111

email: mrsold@mrsold.com

website: mrsold.com

WE DON'T CHARGE WHAT THE OTHER BROKERS CHARGE - **NO** DOCUMENT STORAGE FEES **NO** COMPLIANCE FEES **NO** JUNK FEES

GLENN SILVENIS

www.MrSold.com

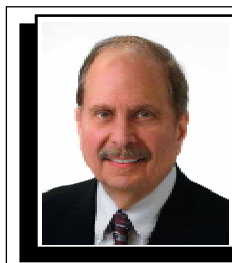
SELL PHONE (734) 740-3000

Office (734) 699-4000

Prior #1, #2 and #3 RE/MAX
Agent Southeastern Michigan

Mayor City of Belleville
1987-1995

Real Trends Rankings
Top 1% Nationwide

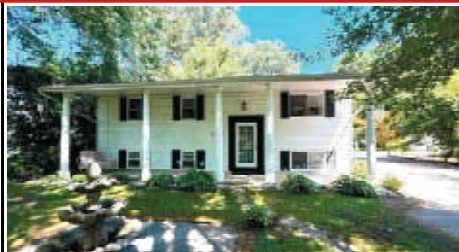


**OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY
MARCH 30 - 12 TO 2**



37416 THERESA LANE, HURON TOWNSHIP

NEW RANCH LISTING Featuring 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Huge Basement, Premium Kitchen, All Appliances, Hardwood Floors, Oversize Garage, Deck, Generator. \$360,000



6757 BELLEVILLE RD, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

LARGE COLONIAL Features 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 2 Kitchens, On 5.88 Acres and a 2.5 Car Garage and 3.5 Car Garage for the gardener or craft person. \$378,000



25 POTTER, BELLEVILLE

BELLEVILLE LAKE - NEW LISTING Features 3,200 Sq Ft, 3 Bedrooms, 3 1/2 Baths. Totally Upgraded with Premium Material, Dock, Multi Level Deck 2 1/2 Car Garage. \$779,000



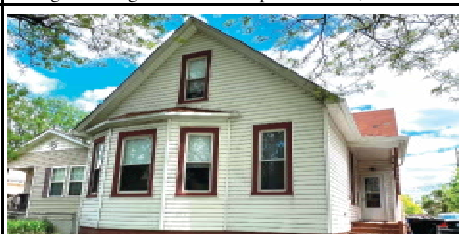
8525 CHERRY HILL, SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP

IN A MOST PRIVATE WORLD. Premium Kitchen, 4 bedrooms (First Floor Master), 3 1/2 Baths, 4,400 Sq Ft, Finished Basement, 40x60 Pole Barn on 5 1/2 Acres. \$1,150,000



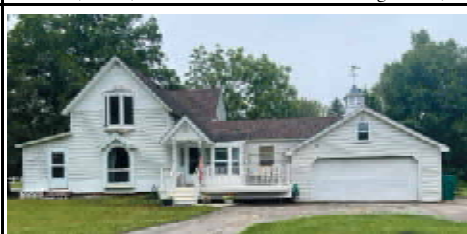
404 MAIN STREET, BELLEVILLE

LARGE RESTAURANT IN THE MIDDLE OF BELLEVILLE. 6,000+ Sq Ft. Includes All Interior Equipment, Coolers. For Sale at \$895,000 or Lease \$4,000 Mo 3X



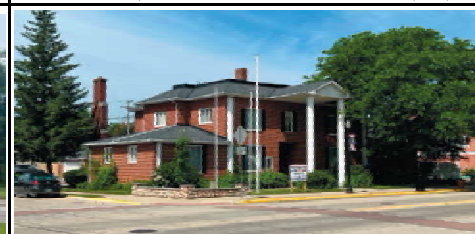
3066 23RD STREET, DETROIT

IMPRESSIVE 4 Bedroom, 2 Bath, Full Basement, Two Kitchens and Just down the street from Slow's Barbecue, Corktown & Michigan Central Train Station. \$125,000



13300 EDGE DALE, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

THIS IMPRESSIVE VICTORIAN home offers an open family room and dining room with Hardwood floors showcasing the arched windows. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms \$269,900



209 MAIN STREET, BELLEVILLE

IT'S A POSSIBLE AIR B&B 7,000+ Square Foot Building on High Traffic Main Street. Large Rooms, Finished Basement and 6 plus Car Garage. \$749,000 or Lease

BELLEVILLE 3 RESIDENTIAL LOTS ONE PENDING
H CITY CROSS
FROM BELLEVILLE LAKE NOW \$49,000
3 ACRES - COMMERCIAL CORNER AT
SUMPTER AND WILLOW NOW \$150,000

GRANT & WAHRMAN 4 ACRES LT IND BY METRO AIRPORT \$250,000
2 PARCELS
One **SOLD**
Outbuilding and Survey \$315,800 for Both
HAGGERTY **SOLD** \$70,000

WILLIS R. SOLD \$60,000
WILLIS & MARTINSVILLE 1.64AC \$65,000
JUDD RD **SOLD** \$39,500
GRANT ROMULUS 1.8 AC LT IND \$45,000
28260 SHERWOOD SUMPTER 10A \$120,000
50540 BOG RD ONE HALF ACRE \$55,000

4 PARCELS ON THE CORNER OF BEMIS AND 1 PARCEL LEFT
\$50,000 BUILDER SPECIAL for 3 LOTS
VACAN **SOLD** \$55,000
*** BELLEVILLE LAKEFRONT *** 2405 RAWSONVILLE 99X328 .74 AC \$99,900

CORNER OF SHERWOOD & ILD ROAD SUM FARM OR BOTS FOR \$200,000
SOLD
19+ ACRES BREST RD. TAYLOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY - PAVED STREET NEAR INKSTER ROAD. \$550,000



ATCHINSON



WHERE FORD MEETS FAMILY

9800 BELLEVILLE RD.

(734) 697-9161

WWW.ATCHINSON.NET

**WELCOME BACK,
KYLE KELLY!**